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THE  
BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD

OF

McLEAN COUNTY,

ILLINOIS.

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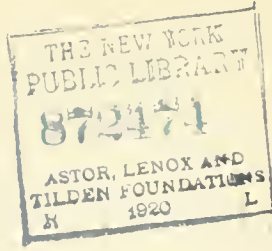
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*"A people that take no pride in the noble achievements of remote ancestors will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered with pride by remote generations."*—MACAULAY.

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CHICAGO:  
THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING COMPANY.

1899.



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“Biography is the only true history.”--Emerson.

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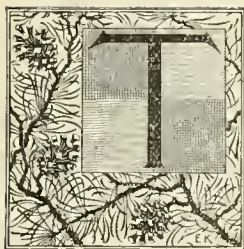
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## PREFACE.



THE greatest of English historians, MACAULAY, and one of the most brilliant writers of the present century, has said: "The history of a country is best told in a record of the lives of its people." In conformity with this idea, the BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD has been prepared. Instead of going to musty records, and taking therefrom dry statistical matter that can be appreciated by but few, our corps of writers have gone to the people, the men and women who have, by their enterprise and industry, brought this county to a rank second to none among those comprising this great and noble State, and from their lips have the story of their life struggles. No more interesting or instructive matter could be presented to an intelligent public. In this volume will be found a record of many whose lives are worthy the imitation of coming generations. It tells how some, commencing life in poverty, by industry and economy have accumulated wealth. It tells how others, with limited advantages for securing an education, have become learned men and women, with an influence extending throughout the length and breadth of the land. It tells of men who have risen from the lower walks of life to eminence as statesmen, and whose names have become famous. It tells of those in every walk in life who have striven to succeed, and records how that success has usually crowned their efforts. It tells also of many, very many, who, not seeking the applause of the world, have pursued the "even tenor of their way," content to have it said of them, as Christ said of the woman performing a deed of mercy—"They have done what they could." It tells how many, in the pride and strength of young manhood, left the plow and the anvil, the lawyer's office and the counting-room, left every trade and profession, and at their country's call went forth valiantly "to do or die," and how through their efforts the Union was restored and peace once more reigned in the land. In the life of every man and of every woman is a lesson that should not be lost upon those who follow after.

Coming generations will appreciate this volume and preserve it as a sacred treasure, from the fact that it contains so much that would never find its way into public records, and which would otherwise be inaccessible. Great care has been taken in the compilation of the work, and every opportunity possible given to those represented to insure correctness in what has been written; and the publishers flatter themselves that they give to their readers a work with few errors of consequence. In addition to biographical sketches, portraits of a number of representative citizens are given.

The faces of some, and biographical sketches of many, will be missed in this volume. For this the publishers are not to blame. Not having a proper conception of the work, some refused to give the information necessary to compile a sketch, while others were indifferent. Occasionally some member of the family would oppose the enterprise, and on account of such opposition the support of the interested one would be withheld. In a few instances men never could be found, though repeated calls were made at their residence or place of business.

August, 1899.

THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING CO.



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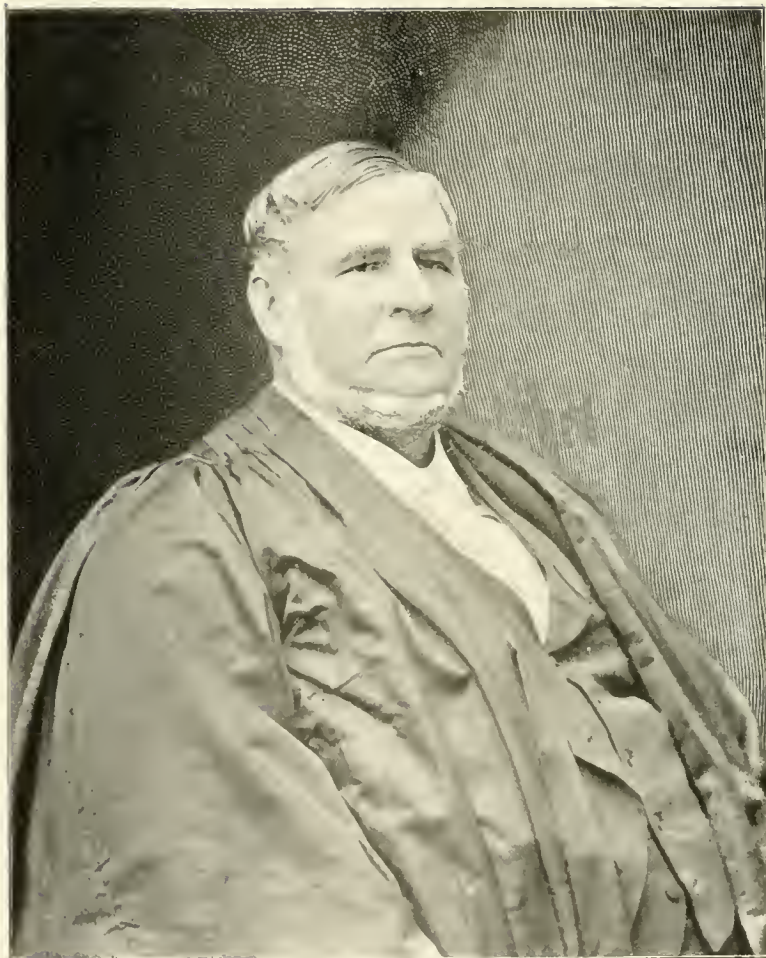
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DAVID DAVIS.



# BIOGRAPHICAL.

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JUDGE DAVID DAVIS was born on the 9th day of March, 1815, in Cecil county, Maryland. His family was of Welsh origin, but had been settled in that county more than a century, and had acquired in every particular the distinctive features of American nationality. He was unfortunate in the loss of his father at an early age; but the kindness of an uncle in many ways atoned in some measure for his early privation. His father left sufficient estate, not only to educate him in classical acquirements, but enough to enable him to live beyond the apprehension of want, during the years of unproductive life, in the early career of manhood. This patrimony was, through the dishonesty and negligence of his guardian, lost to him. Having attended the local schools of Maryland, at the age of thirteen he was entered a student at Kenyon College, Ohio, from which he graduated at the age of seventeen. Although he had no special talent for public speaking, his taste and inclination directed his attention to the bar as the business of life. As has been said, he had sufficient means to enable him to acquire an education and profession. He was not borne down by the privations of poverty, nor was he enervated by the expectation of hereditary riches. The lines had fallen to him in the golden mean, between want and wealth. After

leaving college, he went to Lenox, Massachusetts, and read law in the office of Judge Henry W. Bishop, then one of the leading lawyers of Massachusetts. After remaining in the law office of Judge Bishop about two years, he attended the New Haven Law School for one year. With a good classical education, a course of reading in the office of Judge Bishop, and a term at New Haven, he was fully prepared to enter upon the responsible and arduous duties of a practicing lawyer. His residence in Ohio, and other information, impressed on his mind the magnitude of the resources of the Mississippi Valley, especially the northwest; and on being admitted to the bar he emigrated, in the year 1835, to Illinois. It has been said, "At the time he sought his home in the west as a very young man, he traversed the breadth of nearly five states then in comparative infancy, that he might grow with the growth, and strengthen with the strength of that commonwealth, which has so honored him by its confidence, and whose history his name has enriched in the example of a great character." He first located at Pekin, but after a short time, in 1836, he removed to Bloomington, which for a period of fifty years was his home.

In 1838 he was married to Miss Sarah W. Walker, daughter of Judge William P. Walker, of Lenox, Massachusetts. She wa

well worthy to be the wife of Judge Davis, and shared with him the privations of his early struggles, and the prosperity of his later triumphs, with all the grace and dignity that is born of the beauty of goodness. The Judge, on coming to the years of responsible life, followed the hereditary tendency of his family in politics, and became an ardent Whig. He had a great admiration for Mr. Clay, which amounted to an enthusiasm. In 1840 he was the Whig candidate in the Bloomington district for state senator, but the majority being largely against his party, he was defeated by Governor John Moore, then and for many years after one of the popular Democrats of the state. While the Judge was active in politics, he did not permit his party to interfere with his practice. He was most diligent in and devoted to his profession. Shortly after his coming to the bar, he was offered the position of clerk of the court, in which office he could make four times his income from his practice; but he declined, having no doubt the inspiration of that hope, which, in the end of his career, placed him among the most distinguished jurists of the United States. Daniel Webster had the same experience with a clerkship in the commencement of his career as a lawyer, and disposed of it in the same way—much to the disgust and disappointment of his father. In 1844 Judge Davis was elected to the lower house of the Illinois legislature, and distinguished himself by the clearness and accuracy of his views of the law, and his great capacity of labor in the committee room. He declined a re-nomination. Although pronounced in his political opinions, he was not a politician; he delighted in the practice of law, and the acquirement of that information which would enable him to discharge the

higher functions of judge. During the time of his practice, the bar of central Illinois was very able, and afterwards became most distinguished. Among the prominent were Mr. Lincoln, Judge Logan, Judge Douglas, Colonel Baker—one of the most brilliant orators of his day—Judge Trumbull, Major Stuart, Mr. Browning and Colonel Hardin.

It would be untrue, and therefore unjust to the memory of Judge Davis, to rank him with some of those names as a practicing lawyer. He always disclaimed the comparison, and an honest chronicler should disclaim it for him. The profession of law had to him a wider range than the ambition of the barrister. Nature had made him a judge by the same mysterious economy that it had made others advocates, and while he was not to wear the glory of the gown, he was to be graced by the beauty of the ermine. While at the bar he had a judicial cast of mind, and his career as a lawyer marks the high mission and duty of the truly professional in the economy of society. In 1847 he was elected to the constitutional convention which framed the constitution of 1848, and he bore a very important part, especially in work providing for and establishing the judicial department. During his public life as a legislator he has been conspicuous in his efforts to remodel and improve the judicial machinery of both the state and national governments. The present system of federal appellate jurisdiction is modeled on the plan proposed by him when a member of the senate of the United States, and which passed that body with marked unanimity. At the time of the adoption of the constitution of 1848 he had been at the bar about twelve years, and during that time had most diligently given his attention to the practice, and had im-

pressed upon the mind of the bar and the people of central Illinois the fact that he was most eminently qualified for the bench. At the first election of judge, without opposition he was elected in a circuit composed of fourteen counties, embracing McLean and Sangamon. At the time he became identified with the bar of Illinois, in 1836, Mr. Lincoln was struggling in the commencement of that career which not only made him conspicuous in the ranks of the profession, but marked him as one of the greatest men of history. Between him and Judge Davis, from their first acquaintance to the close of Mr. Lincoln's life, a most cordial intimacy existed. In the exercise of that unerring judgment which enabled the Judge to pass upon the qualities of men, he discerned in Mr. Lincoln intellectual and moral attributes of the highest order.

After Mr. Davis became judge, Mr. Lincoln continued to travel the circuit, attending court in all counties in the circuit, contributing by his learning and ability to the administration of justice, and to the social enjoyment of life by a humor unsurpassed in the richness of its merriment. In 1848 the soil of the circuit had not been broken by the survey of a railroad, and his duties as judge required him to hold two sessions of the court in each year, in fourteen of the largest counties of the state. The clearness and quickness of his intellect, his preparatory education, both literary and professional, and his practice, had fully capacitated him to discharge with promptness the various and laborious duties of his position. In some of the qualities of a judge he has but few superiors in the long line of judicial ability with which our history as a people has been graced. The important duty of a judge is not all performed in the statement

and application of the just principles of the law; these can be gathered, in a majority of cases, from vast storehouses of jurisprudence, to which in England and America, the eminent judges and lawyers have contributed; but to ascertain the truth, to eliminate error, and to adjust the rights of parties, on the facts as they really exist, is the exercise of a faculty that cannot be directed by adjudged cases. The preservation of estates and the protection of infants against the incompetency or dishonesty of guardians, and the rapacity of unscrupulous speculators, marked one of his traits as a circuit judge. His faithfulness in behalf of the trust estate of wards may have been strengthened by his own experience, the estate inherited from his father having been squandered by an unscrupulous and irresponsible guardian. He had great faith in the ultimate value of Illinois land, and it required a very urgent necessity to justify the sale of an infant's real estate. His administration of the law in the circuit court was most eminently satisfactory to the people and the bar. But few appeals were taken from his decisions, and his dispatch of the public business was a marvel of efficiency and industry. He was a natural born judge, and while he was not tyrannical, he forcibly exercised power to accomplish the ends of justice. After his election as judge in 1848, he ceased any active agency in politics, but continued his adhesion to the Whig party until its disruption after the disastrous campaign of 1852. Although anti-slavery in his thoughts and feeling, he disliked the radical tendency of the Abolitionists. In the campaign of 1858 he took a great interest, being opposed to repeal of the Missouri compromise, and a devoted friend of Mr. Lincoln. Mr. Lincoln and Judge Douglas had been



the great champions of the Whig and Democratic parties, and aside from Judge Davis' personal attachment to Mr. Lincoln, he was interested in him as the great leader of the opposition to the Democratic party. Mr. Lincoln, though defeated for Senator, laid the foundation in 1858 for his election to the Presidency. Upon his great success in the joint debate in 1858, Judge Davis, in common with the rest of Mr. Lincoln's personal friends in Illinois, enlarged the boundaries of his ambition, and from that time he was an avowed candidate for the Presidency. In that candidacy Judge Davis took a lively interest, and bore a most distinguished part. He thought that the aspirations of his most intimate friend for the highest office in the land justified his participation in politics. The National Convention of the Republicans met in Chicago on the 16th day of May, 1860, and to that convention he was one of the delegates-at-large. He was so much devoted to the interests of Mr. Lincoln that he could not absent himself from the convention, and besides, it was Mr. Lincoln's personal desire that he should attend.

This was the first great convention held by the Republican party, and had before it as candidates the most distinguished statesmen of that party and of its delegates, the ablest members and the most accomplished politicians. Judge Davis, from the commencement to the close, was recognized as the leader of Mr. Lincoln's forces, and without his agency in that convention it may be doubted whether he would have received the nomination. In his adhesion to Mr. Lincoln he was not actuated by his personal friendship, but by an abiding faith in the ability and integrity of the man. While he had no apprehension that the election of a Republican as President would

involve the country in war, he thought that the grave responsibility that would fall upon the choice of that party would require ability of the highest order and patriotism of the most heroic mold. He took a great interest in the campaign which followed the nomination, but did not participate in it as an active politician. He continued to hold the Circuit Court uninterruptedly until the autumn of 1862.

During the first year of the war the Department of Missouri, through the inefficient administration of the quartermaster, became a chaos of confusion, with millions of money contracted and claimed, with honest demands delayed and dishonest claims pressed for payment. The President, to relieve the embarrassment of the situation, appointed a commission consisting of Judge Davis, General Holt and Mr. Campbell, of St. Louis, to investigate and pass judgment upon the rights of the parties. It was an immense work of investigation, and required the highest grade of talent to bring order and justice out of the confusion. The three men as a combination had the best quality of ability for the task—Judge Davis and General Holt being eminent lawyers, and Mr. Campbell being one of the most experienced merchants of St. Louis. The findings and reports of that commission have been quoted by the highest courts of the land, and the result accomplished by it is an enduring compliment to the integrity and capacity of the men who composed it. During the fourteen years in which Judge Davis presided in the Circuit Court of Illinois the popular estimate which the bar and the people had made of his ability to perform the duties was justified beyond the most sanguine expectations of his friends, so that when a vacancy occurred in the Supreme

Court of the United States in the Circuit including the State of Illinois, he was recognized by the bar as the person to be appointed to that responsible position. The President had an acquaintance with all the prominent lawyers of the circuit, and had the most intimate knowledge of the ability of Judge Davis, and into his hands, by the Constitution, was committed the power and duty of selecting from those lawyers a fit justice for the most important court ever instituted by man. In the quality of Washington, which in the selection of a public officer arose superior to the obligation of personal friendship, President Lincoln, as shown by his administration, was not deficient; and it must be presumed that in the selection of Judge Davis the public had a just regard for the exigencies of the condition of the country which prompted his selection as one of the justices of the United States Supreme Court. After a service of fourteen years on the circuit bench of Illinois he was, in November, 1862, transferred to the higher jurisdiction of the national judiciary. He had not been accustomed to the accuracy of judicial thought required in the preparation of written opinions, but had most thoroughly investigated and studied the law in all the leading features of its administration. At the time he became a member of the Supreme Court it was composed of some of the ablest judges of its entire history. The promotion was well calculated to embarrass him with grave apprehensions of his success, for while he was brave and fearless when boldness was a virtue, he had a modest appreciation of his own ability. His opinions, when deliberately formed, though firm, while in the process of development, were susceptible to every legitimate and logical

influence. At the time he became a member of the Supreme Court many questions of importance were pending—questions not of property, not of individual reputation—but great questions of international and public law, questions of civil liberty, not in the interpretation of statutes, but in the construction of the constitution of the United States. He was eminently conservative in the tendency of his mind and judgment; and while he did not coincide with many of the theories of constitutional construction in favor of a strong government, he believed in the sovereignty of the Federal power, in the passage and execution of such laws as it might determine were within the purview of the Constitution. He believed in that theory of the Constitution which recognized the Union, not as a mere compact between the States, but as a government formed upon the adoption of the people, and creating direct relations between itself and the citizen. In the discharge of his new duty as a justice of the Supreme Court he soon impressed his brethren of the bench with his superior judicial qualifications, and he wrote but few opinions until the American bar was satisfied that the President made no mistake in his selection of a judge.

The period of the war was remarkably prolific in forcing upon the consideration of all the departments of the Government new issues of legal inquiry. The financial policy of the Government, the belligerent rights of enemies, questions of personal liberty, military commissions, questions of prize—in fact all the interests of fifty millions of people, both of peace and war, were the subject matter of jurisdictions from 1862 to 1877. One of the most important cases of the period was assigned to him—a case which excited great public interest and

provoked much popular discussion. The matter at issue, being a question of individual liberty, and the power of the Government in time of war, made it one of the great historical cases, ranking in importance with *Marbury vs. Madison*, and the Dartmouth College case. It is the case of *ex parte* Milligan, and an examination of it will justify the resolution of the McLean county bar "That we do most especially appreciate, as fine specimens of judicial statement, his opinions which embrace a discussion of the genius and mold of the American government, and recognize those opinions as worthy of a place among the great judicial interpretations of the American Constitution." The leading thoughts of the decision are: "The Constitution of the United States is a law for rulers and people equally in war and in peace, and covers with the shield of its protection all classes of men, and at all times, and under all circumstances. The government, within the constitution, has all the powers granted to it, which are necessary to preserve its existence, as has been happily proved by the result of the great effort to overthrow it." It will be seen by an examination of the reports containing his opinions, that he fearlessly followed the dictates of an honest judgment, regardless of what might be the prejudice or passion of the hour, and whether his reason was on one side or the other of the line of popular clamor, he followed the logic of his convictions.

After the close of the war many cases came before the Supreme Court involving the constitutionality of the legal tender acts. In the case of *Hepburn vs. Griswold*, a majority of the Court held that "There is in the constitution no express grant of legislative power to make any description

of credit currency a legal tender in payment of debt." The effect of this decision was to invalidate by judicial judgment one of the most important acts of the Government in the prosecution of the war, and to disturb the business of the country, by making nothing but coin applicable to the payment of debts contracted before the passage of the acts of Congress providing for the issue of Treasury notes. To that decision Judge Davis, with Judges Swayne and Miller dissented. In a short time, after the promulgation of this decision, other cases reached the Supreme Court involving the same question, and in what is known as the "legal tender cases" the Court reversed the decision of *Hepburn vs. Griswold*, by holding, "The acts of Congress known as the Legal Tender Acts are constitutional when applied to contracts made before their passage, and are also applicable to contracts made since." The last decision was made by a divided Court, Judge Davis holding with the majority that Congress had the power to pass the legal tender acts of 1862 and 1863. Mr. Choate, with the wand of his genius, has marked with beautiful accuracy the perfect judge: "He shall know nothing about the parties; everything about the case. He shall do everything for justice; nothing for himself; nothing for his patrons; nothing for his sovereign. If on one side is the executive power and the legislature and the people—the source of his honors, the givers of his daily bread—and on the other side an individual, nameless and odious, his eye is to see neither great nor small, attending only to the trepidations of the balance." "Give," says Mr. Choate, "to the community such a Judge and I care little who makes the rest of the constitution, or what party adminis-



ters it. It will be a free government." To this ideal, high though it is, Judge Davis attained. Although he had not participated in politics since the convention of 1860, in January, 1872, the Labor Reform party nominated him for President.

Owing to the dissatisfaction in the Republican party the liberal movement was inaugurated in the early part of 1872, which culminated in a convention in May; and to that convention his name was submitted as a candidate. Illinois was divided between Judge Davis and Senator Trumbull, which destroyed the chances of both. The friends of Judge Davis were largely in the majority, but there being no state convention held in Illinois, the question had to be settled by an equal division of the delegation. The result of the convention was the nomination of Mr. Greeley, and the memorable campaign of 1872. In the election of 1876 in Illinois neither of the great parties secured a majority of the legislature, and the balance of power was held by the Independent party, which nominated Judge Davis as its candidate for the United States Senate. General Logan was the nominee for the Republican party and various persons were supported by the Democracy. After a contest lasting from the first of January until the first of March, the Democracy united with the Independents and elected the Judge a Senator from the 4th of March, 1877. The honor was unsolicited on his part, and no effort was made by him to influence the choice of the legislature. He did not exchange the court for the senate because he preferred the dignity and duty of the latter; but because the legislature tendered him the place, and under all the circumstances he did not feel at liberty to decline. His career

as judge commenced in 1848 and ended in 1877, making a continuous service of twenty-nine years of judicial labor. Upon his retirement his brethren of the bench left upon the records of the court an enduring memorial of his many virtues as shown by correspondence. On the 5th of March, 1877, he addressed his brethren of the court: "My official connection with the Supreme Court of the United States closes to-day. Having passed all the years of my active life at the bar or on the bench, it is not without serious misgivings that I enter upon a new sphere of public service; but I have not felt at liberty to decline a seat in the Senate, with which I have been honored by the General Assembly of the State of Illinois. Having severed the relations which have existed between us for so many years, I beg leave to bear my testimony to the eminent learning, ability and integrity which have characterized your judicial labors. From the organization of the government, the Supreme Court has been composed of able and upright judges. In my judgment, it is now as worthy of the confidence of the American people as it ever has been at any period of its history. Since I was invited to its councils by President Lincoln, six of its members have been numbered with the dead. I take great satisfaction in the reflection that my relations with them, and all my associates, have been uniformly kind and cordial. In offering you my parting salutations, I beg you to be assured of the respect and sincere good wishes with which I remain your friend and servant." To which the Court by letter replied: "We have received with sincere regret your letter announcing that your official connection with us is closed. During the fifteen years in which you have been a member of this

Court, questions of the gravest character have come before it for adjudication, and you have borne your full share of the labor and responsibility which their decision involved. We shall miss you in the conference room, your wise judgment and your just appreciation of facts; in the reception room, your kind and courteous greetings. With the hope that your life in the future may be as useful as it has been in the past, and that the ties of personal friendship which now bind us so closely to you may never be broken, we subscribe ourselves very sincerely your friends."

While he had but little legislative experience when he became a member of the Senate, he at once took a position among the leaders of that distinguished body, serving on the judiciary committee with Edmunds, Conkling, Thurman, Garland, Carpenter, and other great lawyers of the American Senate. In November, 1879, less than two years after his election, Mrs. Davis, who had been in delicate health for some time, died at her old home in Massachusetts, leaving after her the memory of many acts of kindness in alleviating the wants of the poor, both in Washington and the city in which she lived for nearly half a century. Judge Davis served as acting vice-president for nearly two years, and with but little experience in the technical knowledge of parliamentary law he decided every question that came before the Senate without submission, and never was reversed by the action of the Senate. In the Senate, as in every other situation, he commanded the respect and confidence of his associates, and retired from that body at the end of his term to enjoy the ease and comfort of private life. As a member of the judiciary committee, he performed faithful service in

shaping the legislation of Congress during the entire term of his office.

In March, 1883, upon the expiration of his term as senator, he was married to Miss Adeline Burr, of Fayetteville, North Carolina, a lady of many accomplishments and fitted in every respect for the high social position which she occupied as the wife of Judge Davis. After his retirement from the senate, he devoted his attention to private business, which, on account of his extensive property, was large and exacting. As he approached the age of seventy, the vigor of his constitution and the vivacity of his spirits became much impaired by the encroachments of disease, and on the 26th of June, 1886, after an illness of several months, he passed the mysterious change of death. At the time of his decease, though retired from public life, men of all creeds and of all parties anxiously hoped for his restoration to health and vigor. As a public man, he filled no ordinary space in the affections of the people, and in the appreciation of personal friendship throughout the length and breadth of a land made better and happier by the goodness and greatness of his character. He left surviving as children Mr. George Perrin Davis and Mrs. Sarah D. Swayne to perpetuate the worth of a life rich in the goodness of duty performed. Nature and education had stamped upon him every lineament of gentility. Though he was wealthy, fortune-making was not a passion of his life. He loved thrift, independence and possession; but mere wealth had no allurements for him. He served the state as a judge at a nominal salary, to the great sacrifice of his pecuniary interests, and his whole life was devoted to the public service to the detriment of his private fortune. His life was a



success; not accidental, but deserved. He approached the ladder of fortune and fame and placed his feet on every round on which he stood as the result of his own labor and merit. If he had opportunity, he created it; if he had success, he achieved it; if he had victory, he won it. He produced the conditions of his own advancement. He filled three score and ten years with goodness and crowned them with greatness. He commanded the respect of his fellow-citizens of all sections and of all parties, and, in the language of Judge Kelley: "He is so well known to the country by his career as an independent senator and a learned and conscientious justice of the supreme court of the United States."

JAMES M. STINE, of Saybrook, Illinois, after years of honest toil, is now living a retired life, enjoying the fruits of his industry and thrift. He was born in Monroe county, Indiana, May 15, 1847, and in his native county and state he grew to manhood, being reared to farm life. His educational advantages were fairly good, and he received a good common-school education. He remained with his parents until grown, in the meantime assisting in the farm work. He was married in Monroe county, Indiana, July 16, 1868, to Miss Margaret Lamen, also a native of Monroe county. After his marriage, he located on a farm in that county and there engaged in farming for five years.

Believing he could better himself in the prairie state, Mr. Stine came with his family to McLean county in 1874, and located first in West township, where he rented a farm and there remained three years. He then moved into Arrowsmith township,

rented land and farmed for nine years. At the expiration of that time he moved into Cheney's Grove township, and purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres. He did not, however, locate on that farm, but rented it out, and on another rented farm he moved with his family. Four years later he sold the farm he bought at a nice advance, and later bought a farm of three hundred and twenty acres in Jasper county, Indiana. He did not move to his new purchase, but continued to reside in McLean county and still continued to farm. He later sold his Indiana farm, but continued farming in McLean county until his removal to Saybrook, in 1898. In the meantime he bought some nice lots and built a good residence, in Saybrook. In 1896 he purchased a hardware establishment in Saybrook, and taking into partnership his son, H. D., he carried on that line of trade, the son taking the active business management. He continued in this line for about two years and then sold his interest to the son, the latter continuing the business.

Mr. and Mrs. Stine are the parents of six children, H. D., mentioned above, being the eldest. William R., the next born, is engaged in the draying business in Saybrook. J. B., Ella M., James and Daisy are at home.

Politically, Mr. Stine is an earnest and true Democrat, having supported the men and measures of that party since casting his first presidential vote for Horatio Seymour in 1868. He would never accept any local office save that of school director. For fifteen years he served as a member of the school board, the greater part of the time being clerk of the district. He is a member of the Christain church of Saybrook, of which body his wife is also a member. Socially, they are held in high esteem, and

they have many friends in the eastern part of the county, where they are well known, and where they have resided a quarter of a century.

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**H**UGH D. STINE, who is engaged in the hardware business in Saybrook, is one of the most active and enterprising of the younger business men of the county. He is a native of McLean county, and was born in West township, March 28, 1875. He is the son of James M. and Margaret (Lamen) Stine, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this work. He remained with his parents until he attained his majority. His primary education was obtained in the district schools of Arrowsmith and Cheney's Grove township, and was supplemented by the high school of Saybrook. He then entered the State Normal school at Normal, which he attended several terms, finishing his education in that institution. He then engaged in teaching, which profession he followed about two years and a half. In 1896, he entered into partnership with his father and engaged in his present line of business. In the three years which have followed he has built up an excellent trade. His father remained with him until 1898, since which time he has been alone. In addition to a stock of shelf and heavy hardware, he handles in the seasons agricultural implements of all kinds, including repairs for the various kinds of machines in use by the farmers. He has shown himself a good business man, and is well deserving of the trade which he has secured.

Religiously, Mr. Stine is connected with the Christian church of Saybrook, and takes quite an active part in the work of the church. At present he is one of the trustees

of the church. Fraternally he is a member of the Knights of Pythias, and has passed through all the chairs of the lodge in Saybrook, and is now past chancellor. He is also a member of Saybrook Lodge, No. 460, I. O. O. F. As a stockholder in the Fair Association of Saybrook, he takes an active interest in it, and gives of his time and means to make it a success. In everything of a public nature for the best interest of his adopted city he shows his public spirit, and is regarded by the people of the city as one of its most enterprising men. Politically, he is a Democrat, and is now serving as one of the aldermen of the city.

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**W**ILLIAM WILES. In this enlightened age, when men of energy, industry, and merit are rapidly pushing their way to the front, those who by their individual efforts have won fame and fortune, may promptly claim recognition. Years ago when the west was entering upon an era of growth and development, and Illinois was laying its foundation for a future prosperity, there came hither from all parts of Europe men of sturdy independence, and with determination to succeed, that justly entitles them to representation in the history of the great west. Among this class is numbered Mr. Wiles, who after an active and useful life is now enjoying a well-earned retirement from labors in his pleasant home in Chenoa. He was born in Long Sutton, Lincolnshire, England, on the 24th of May, 1820, and is a son of William and Sarah (Sanling) Wiles, whose home was in England, and after years of toil and a life of fruitfulness were laid to rest beneath the soil they loved best. William was reared in England, and at the age of ten

years, after his father's death, commenced the struggle for a livelihood. From the commencement of his career until his retirement in 1883, Mr. Wiles has followed agricultural pursuits, perfecting himself in all branches, and the present thrifty condition of his farm in Yates township, recently given over to the charge of his son, speaks for itself of his understanding and good management. For the first two years of his working life he received the meagre sum of eight cents per day, and the two years following, twelve cents. During his fourteenth and fifteenth years he received sixteen cents per day, and throughout all these years furnished his own board. Mr. Wiles then entered the employ of a farmer from whom he received twelve dollars and fifty cents per year, and with whom he remained for thirteen years, afterward working for various other farmers until his twenty-seventh year. His experiences, though hard, were not without their benefits. The thorough understanding and experienced derived from the many years of hard labor, enabled him to fill the responsible position of overseer of a large farm, extending over many acres, and upon which he remained for seven years.

On the 16th of May, 1847, Mr. Wiles married Frances Ann Frank, an English woman. Seven children have been born to them, namely: Eliza, deceased; George, Sarah, William, John, Florence, deceased; and Edward, also deceased. The four former were born before Mr. and Mrs. Wiles left England. In 1857 the family emigrated to America, locating in Eureka, Illinois, where they resided for seven years, and then came to Yates township, where Mr. Wiles had purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, and where he put

into practice all the modern and scientific methods known to the agricultural world at that time, but giving the greater part of his attention to the raising of hogs. In 1883 he placed the management of the farm in the hands of his son Edward, and removed to Chenoa, where he now resides in his cheerful and comfortable home, enjoying the fruits of his former active life. In the quiet evening of life, shadows oftentimes come to darken our horizon. On the 2d of October, 1897, Mr. Wiles experienced the sad loss of his wife, who died in her seventy-fifth year. Our subject gives his support to the Democratic party, and while not aspiring to public office, his fellow-citizens have called upon him to serve as road commissioner, which he has done for three terms, giving due satisfaction. He is a self-made man in every respect; his life has been long, eventful and useful, and in his declining years he has the love and respect of all who know him. He is not a member of any religious body, but he is a true soldier of the cross, who upholds and believes in the principles of truth as taught by the Savior of men.

JOHN H. SPENCE, an enterprising and successful farmer residing on section 21, Cheney's Grove, McLean county, was born in Xenia, Greene county, Ohio, August 19, 1850, a son of John A. Spence, a portrait painter and artist of considerable ability. The father was born in St. Louis, Missouri, of which place his father, Henry Spence, was an early settler and business man. In Xenia, Ohio, John A. Spence married Miss Maria Horn, a native of that city and a daughter of John Horn, who was born in Germany and was a pioneer of



Ohio. For some years after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Spence continued to reside in Xenia and then removed to Illinois, locating in Stanton, where the father died in 1858. The mother is still living, a hale and hearty old lady of about seventy years, and finds a pleasant home with our subject. In their family were six children, five of whom are still living, namely: Sarah, now the widow of Elijah Stephens, and a resident of Denver, Colorado; J. H., our subject; Mary, wife of David Shelbrick, of Columbus, Ohio; Julia, wife of John Saylor, of Saybrook, Illinois; and Catherine Gard, a resident of McLean. Anna died in childhood at Heyworth, this county.

When a lad of ten years, John H. Spence came with his mother to Heyworth, and in this county he grew to manhood, his education being mostly acquired in the public schools of Heyworth. As his father was dead, he lived upon a farm with his uncle, Robert McIlvain, an early settler of McLean county, and he early acquired an excellent knowledge of agricultural pursuits. On starting out in life for himself, he rented and operated some of Kerrick's land in Funk's Grove township, and later farmed on the Sherwood land in Anchor township for four years. In 1883 he purchased one hundred and sixty acres near Gibson City, in Ford county, and to the cultivation and improvement of that place he devoted his time and attention for seven years. He then sold out and returned to McLean county, buying a fairly well improved farm of one hundred and twenty acres on section 21, Cheney's Grove township, where he now resides. He has since added to this a twenty-acre tract, and now has a valuable and fertile farm of one hundred and forty acres, which he has placed under a high

state of cultivation. It is divided into fields of convenient size by well-kept fences, and he has built a good barn and cribs, set out fruit and shade trees and made many permanent improvements on the place, so that it is now one of the most desirable of its size in the locality.

Politically, Mr. Spence is identified with the Prohibition party, but formerly was a Republican. He and his mother hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church in Saybrook, and have the respect and esteem of all who know them. He started out in life for himself in limited circumstances, but by hard labor, close application, untiring perseverance and good management he has become quite well-to-do, and is regarded as one of the most successful as well as one of the most reliable farmers of his community.

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ARTHUR RODMAN, secretary and manager of the Bloomington Store Fixture Company, is a well-known and successful business man of Bloomington. He is a native of McLean county, born in Old Town township August 17, 1865, and is a son of Francis A. and Angelina (Matthews) Rodman, who were among the early settlers of the county. The Rodman family trace their ancestry back to John Rodman, a Quaker, who was expelled from England on account of his extreme democratic views, and who located on the island of Barbados, where he became a large sugar planter, owning the entire island. Some of his children later settled in New England, and the family have since been prominently identified with the history of this country, some occupying high stations, furnishing to the country eminent politicians, members of

congress and of the legislature, ministers of the gospel, lawyers and military men. During the Revolutionary war representatives of the family took a prominent part in the struggle on the American side. One of the family is the celebrated Captain Rodman, inventor of the Rodman gun.

Scanmon Rodman, the grandfather of our subject, was born in Berks county, Pennsylvania, about 1811, and from there removed to Ohio, where he became an extensive farmer and stock raiser. He there married Eliza Wolf, by whom he had ten children. He became quite prominent in Ohio, but with the thought that he could better himself and give his children better opportunities for advancement, he came to McLean county in 1853 and located in Old Town township, where he purchased a large tract of land, and again engaged in general farming and stock raising. He became very well-to-do, and was quite prominent in local and state politics, serving his township as supervisor and in other positions. He was first a Whig, and on the death of that party became a staunch Republican. He died in Old Town township in 1895. His wife preceded him some fifteen years.

Francis A. Rodman was born in Zanesville, Ohio, June 20, 1837, and there spent his boyhood and received his education in the public schools. He came with the family to this county in 1853, and devoted himself to agricultural pursuits. He yet remains an honored citizen of the township, and is well known and universally respected. He was married in Old Town township to Angeline Matthews. Mrs. Rodman died in March, 1870, leaving four sons. Henry H. residing near Bloomington. Samuel, now deceased. Arthur, our subject, is next in order of birth. Bert, a twin brother of

Arthur, is now deceased. The parents are members of the Methodist Protestant church, and in politics the father is a Republican.

Arthur Rodman was reared on his father's farm, and was educated in Old Town, receiving a good common-school education. He was enabled to pass a successful examination for a teacher's certificate, and for five successive years taught the home school. By a coincidence he was brought into the manufacturing business; having invented a number of convenient devices in the line of store fixtures, he engaged in their manufacture. The demand for them was much greater than was expected, and in order to increase the facilities for their manufacture in 1893 he organized the Bloomington Store Fixture Company, with a capital stock of twenty thousand dollars, and of which S. R. White is president. By the company he was made secretary and general manager, a position that he still holds. The company occupies much the larger part of the White building, 76x112 feet, using four floors and the basement. The factory is supplied with all modern and up-to-date machinery, and manufacture a superior line of bank furniture and store fixtures, and having a trade that extends from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from the gulf to the Dominion of Canada.

Mr Rodman has had the sole responsibility and management of the company since its inception, and has made of it a fine success. Employment is given to about fifty skilled workmen in making the furniture, which is the finest manufactured in the country, and is now one of the noted industries of the city. Mr. Rodman has made all the designs and drawings for the work, and while he had no advantages in the way



of instruction in this line, he is an excellent designer, as is shown by his work and the demand for the goods. One of the secrets of his success is that his designs are all original. He devotes his whole time to his work and has traveled all over the country in the interest of the business.

On the 25th of June, 1896, Mr. Rodman was united in marriage with Miss May Leaton, of Bloomington, daughter of J. H. Leaton, who was clerk of the circuit court for twelve consecutive years. She is a highly educated woman, a graduate of the State Normal, in the class of 1894. She is possessed of artistic ability of a high order and is a good painter in water colors, and her pen sketches are fine. The walls of their beautiful home are decorated with specimens of her artistic work. Their fine residence on East Graham street was built from designs furnished by Mr. Rodman, and is constructed of finely selected woods, being very attractive to the eye.

Mr. and Mrs. Rodman are members of the First Methodist Episcopal church of Bloomington. Fraternally he is a member of Bloomington Lodge, No. 43, A. F. & A. M.; Remembrance Lodge, No. 77, I. O. O. F.; Jesse Fell Lodge, No. 164, K. P. He is a representative of the younger business men of Bloomington, and is deserving of the respect in which he is held.

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HON. JOSEPH W. FIFER, LL. D., stands pre-eminent, not alone among the distinguished men of McLean county, but of the state and nation as well. He is a man of the people, standing in close touch with them, and having that confidence in the common people that distinguished our first martyr president, Abraham Lincoln.

Like the latter, he boasts of no distinguished birth, but "blood will tell," and if one has within him the making of a man, time will develop any talent that he may possess. The truth of this statement is clearly shown in the life of "Private Joe" Fifer, who has held the highest office within the gift of the people of the state of Illinois, an office which he filled with an ability second to none who were ever called upon to occupy the exalted position.

Joseph W. Fifer was born in Staunton, Virginia in 1844, and with his parents, who were natives of the same state, emigrated to McLean county in 1857, locating in Danvers township, where the elder Fifer engaged in farming in connection with his trade of brick laying.

Trained to be loyal and true to his country, when the safety of the government was imperilled by those who would sever it in twain, with his brother George, he walked to Bloomington, a distance of fifteen miles, and enlisted as a member of Company —, Thirty-third Illinois Volunteer Infantry. George, being the elder, was commissioned first lieutenant, while Joseph entered the ranks and was "only a private." As such, he served three full years, his career being indeed an honorable one. The Thirty-third regiment experienced hard service, making a record equal to any in the service. Just after the siege and fall of Vicksburg, in which the regiment took a prominent and honorable part, the Thirteenth Army Corps, to which it belonged, turned fiercely upon General Johnston, who had during the siege been threatening Grant's rear. On July 13, 1863, at Jackson, Mississippi, Sherman's force assaulted the intrenchment of Johnston, at which time Mr. Fifer, the youthful private, fell in front of a rebel abatis,

pierced through the body by a minie ball. His comrades, who saw him fall, thought he was surely killed. The weather was torrid in the extreme, and the surgeon, Rev. Dr. Rex, told Lieutenant Fifer that unless ice could be procured his brother Joseph must die. It was fifty miles to Vicksburg, the nearest place where ice could be had, and the country was hostile, wild and war-torn. Johnston B. Lott, a comrade, who touched elbows with Joseph in the ranks, bravely volunteered to go with an ambulance for ice. His mission succeeded, ice was procured, and Joseph's life was saved. As soon as the nature of the wound would admit, he set off, mangled and almost dying to seek health once more under his father's lowly roof, up in "God's country." His recovery from his terrible wound was, perhaps, more complete than was ever known from one of like severity. For this result he has largely to thank his rugged constitution, his temperate habits, and his early inurement to labor and hardships. Bad as he was wounded, he did not ask or receive discharge from service because of disability. His brother George was killed in the engagement before Fort Esperanza, Texas, a short time before the close of hostilities.

On receiving his discharge, Mr. Fifer returned to his old home, but it was not to there long remain. He determined, in some way, to secure an education. While he believed that all labor was honorable, he yet had an ambition to make for himself a name, to be something more than a common day laborer. His means were limited, but his object must be attained, and so he entered the Illinois Wesleyan University from which he graduated in June, 1868.

After being admitted to the bar, it was

not long before the ability of Mr. Fifer was recognized by his fellow-citizens, and in the spring of 1871 he was elected corporation counsel for the city of Bloomington. The city then had more important legislation than usual, the new state constitution having made important changes in the law of special assessments. Inexperienced as he was, Mr. Fifer grappled manfully and successfully with these new questions. In 1872, he was by almost unanimous consent of the Republicans of the county, chosen their candidate for state's attorney to which office he was elected, and by re-election served eight years.

In 1880, Mr. Fifer was elected to the state senate, and it is only necessary to say that he took a position in that body of equal prominence with that which he held at the bar. He acquired a state acquaintance, and made friends of all he met. A reputation for learning and ability had preceded him, and he was awarded places upon some of the most important committees of the senate, among them the judiciary committee and the committee on judicial department. His experience in the enforcement of the original law had suggested some important changes in the criminal practice, which he took an early opportunity to have incorporated in the statutes of the state. Two of the most important of these were the law in reference to continuances and the law regulating changes of venue in criminal cases. At the expiration of his term in the senate he declined re-election.

The career of Mr. Fifer in the senate brought him into prominence before the people of the state, and in 1880 he received the nomination of the state Republican convention for governor of the state. The can-

vass he made was a brilliant one, and everywhere "Private Joe" was cordially received, and his election was secured by a large majority. For four years his administration of the affairs of state was able and dignified. From the inception of the Columbian idea, Governor Fifer was an enthusiastic supporter of the exposition; his influence was given unreservedly to the passage of the various enabling acts by which the general assembly legalized the transfer of the parks and the issue of Chicago bonds to the corporation of the fair, and his signature was given promptly to the final measure by which the state of Illinois made munificent appropriation for her buildings and exhibit. In 1892 he was nominated for re-election, but was defeated by John P. Altgeld, going down in the great political landslide of that year, his defeat, however, being principally caused by his advanced views in favor of compulsory education. In 1896 he was a prominent candidate before the national Republican convention for the vice-presidency, having support from many of the states of the union.

On the 15th of June, 1870, Mr. Fifer was united in marriage with Miss Gertrude Lewis, and by this union there are two children. Herman W. is a graduate of Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts, in the class of 1898, and is now in the law department of Wesleyan University. Florence is now the wife of J. H. Bohrer, one of the directors of the Corn Belt Bank of Bloomington.

From 1891 to 1893 Mr. Fifer was one of the trustees of Wesleyan University, from which institution he received the degree of LL. D., in 1892. He has always taken special interest in educational affairs, his struggles for an education making him the

more desirous of giving a better opportunity to others, that they may not experience such hardships. While in general terms it is true that "a prophet is never without honor, save in his own country," yet this can hardly be said of Mr. Fifer. Those who know him the best, and have known him the longest, esteem him the highest. He is in the prime of life, of vigorous frame, capable of great endurance, and full of activity. Success has crowned his efforts in life, and he has acquired a competence adequate to the wants of his generous but moderate nature.

**REUBEN MOORE BENJAMIN.** Reuben Moore Benjamin, the youngest son of Darius and Martha (Rogers) Benjamin, was born at Chatham Centre, Columbia county, New York, June 29, 1833. His father was a soldier in the war of 1812, and his grandfather, Ebenezer Benjamin, was a captain in the Revolutionary army. His father and his maternal grandfather, Timothy Rogers, were of English, while his maternal grandmother, Sarah (Moore) Rogers, was of Welsh extraction. His ancestors on both sides lived in Connecticut in the colonial times. He was fitted for college at Kinderhook Academy, New York, and in 1853 was graduated with honor at Amherst College, Massachusetts. He was principal of Hopkins Academy at Hadley, Massachusetts, 1853-54; a student in Harvard Law School, 1854-55; and tutor in Amherst College, 1855-56. In April, 1856, he came to Bloomington, Illinois, and in the following September, upon the examination certificate of Abraham Lincoln, was licensed to practice law.

Shortly after his admission to the bar he became a partner with General A. Gridley



HON. R. M. BENJAMIN.

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and Colonel J. H. Wickizer, and remained with them as long as they continued to practice law. In 1863 he formed a partnership with Thomas F. Tipton, afterward circuit judge and member of congress; and since then, at different times, he has been associated as partner with Jonathan H. Rowell, member of congress for several terms, Lawrence Weldon, one of the judges of the United States court of claims, and John J. Morrissey. In 1869 he was elected a delegate to the convention that framed the state constitution of 1870, and served on the important committees of bill of rights, municipal corporations, state institutions, and schedule. The bill of rights (Article 11), as drafted by him, was adopted by the full committee and the convention with but a single change. He introduced and caused to be incorporated into that article the far-reaching provision that "no law—making any irrevocable grant of special privileges or immunities shall be passed." In his speech on the railroad article he took the position, never before held in court, that the power to limit the rates of charges of common carriers as the public good may require, is a governmental power which no legislature can irrevocably abandon or bargain away to any individual or corporation.

In 1872 he was one of the counsel for the people in the celebrated Lexington case (*Chicago & Alton Railroad Company v. People*, 67 Ill. 11), which led to the legislation of 1873 prohibiting extortion and unjust discrimination in railroad charges. He was subsequently employed as special counsel for the State Board of Railroad and Warehouse Commissioners, and assisted the attorney-general in the prosecution of the warehouse case (*Munn v. People*, 69 Ill. 80), which was taken to the supreme court

of the United States, and being there affirmed (*Munn v. Illinois*, 94 U. S. 113), became the leading case in the series familiarly known in 1876 as the "Granger cases." These cases established the constitutional power of the legislature to regulate railroad and warehouse charges, and thereby protect the public against imposition. In the later case (*Ruggles v. People*, 91 Ill. 256), decided in 1878, the supreme court of this state declared broadly that the legislature has the power to pass laws establishing reasonable maximum rates of charges by common carriers or others exercising a calling or business public in its character, or in which the public have an interest to be protected against extortion or oppression. In commenting on this case, the Western Jurist says: "It is probable that the people of the state are indebted for the results of this agitation as given in the above decision to Hon. R. M. Benjamin, of Bloomington, in a greater degree than to any other single individual. As a member of the constitutional convention, he made the clearest and most convincing argument in favor of the rights of the people which was delivered in that body, and as special counsel for the people in the cases of the *Chicago & Alton Railroad Company v. People*, and *Munn v. People*, have very materially contributed in establishing the principle contended for by him before the convention and established in the above cases."

The "Granger cases" have been repeatedly followed by the supreme court of the United States: *Budd v. New York* (1891), 143 U. S. 517; *Brass v. North Dakota* (1893), 153 U. S. 391.

In 1873 Mr. Benjamin was elected without opposition to the office of county judge of McLean county. He was re-elected in

1877, and also in 1882. His judicial aptitude, the soundness of his decisions and the quiet ease with which he dispatched business won and held the respect and confidence of the bar and of the people. He preferred not to be a candidate again for the office and accordingly retired from the bench at the close of his third term, in December, 1886.

Upon the organization of the law department of the Illinois Wesleyan University (known as the Bloomington Law School), in 1874, Judge Benjamin was appointed dean of the law faculty. He is still connected with the law school, having charge of the subjects of real and personal property and constitutional law. He has published the following works: "Students' Guide to Elementary Law," "Principles of the Law of Contracts," and "Principles of the Law of Sales," which are used in several of the leading law schools of the country. In 1880 the degree of LL. D. was conferred on him by Illinois Wesleyan University.

Judge Benjamin was married at Chat-ham, New York, September 15, 1856, to Miss Laura, daughter of Mr. David G. Woodin, who for many years was county superintendent of schools, of Columbia county, New York.

Probably the part that Judge Benjamin took in the constitutional convention had a more directly beneficial effect upon the citizens of Illinois than any other of his acts; and the arguments he brought to bear before that body, in behalf of the people, to prevent railroad corporations from unjustly discriminating against any section of the state or against any citizen, displayed such a deep knowledge of corporation law and have had such an important bearing upon the construction of law affecting corpora-

tions throughout the nation, that we herewith reproduce in full the speech to which reference has previously been made (Debates of Constitutional Convention, Vol. 2, p. 1641):

MR. CHAIRMAN:—Corporations, and especially railroad corporations, have within the last few years assumed and exercised powers incompatible with the public welfare; and perhaps there is no danger so much to be apprehended, and if possible guarded against by people of this state as that which has its source in the construction placed by the courts upon what are called legislative, or charter, contracts. In theory, railroad corporations are created for the public good. In practice, they become oppressive by being allowed, under the claim of charter contracts, to fix the rate of toll for the transportation of persons and property.

Whenever the public interests demand the construction of a railroad, the legislature, without any hesitancy, authorizes the corporation to take private property—the very homestead—for that purpose. Whenever the same public interests require a limitation of rates of railroad charges the plea is set up that the legislature has no power, whatever, to act upon the matter. The principle of public benefit, when invoked in aid of a railroad, is all-powerful. The same principle, when appealed to for the protection of the people against imposition and extortion, has hitherto been held to be utterly powerless. The interest of individuals must yield to that of the public. The interest of the public has been declared to be subordinate to that of railroad corporations. And when we ask for the reason of this distinction between individual rights and corporation rights—when we ask why it is that public interests, although paramount to in-

dividual interests, must succumb to corporate interests—we are told that the legislature has made contracts whereby it has abdicated in favor of corporations the governmental powers intrusted to it by the sovereign people. I say governmental powers, because in the absence of a charter contract, the power of the legislature to regulate and limit the tolls which the owners of railroads may lawfully take, is unquestionable.

The statutes of the several states afford numberless instances of legislative limitation of the tolls of ferry, bridge, plank-road, and turnpike companies. The ordinances of the larger cities of this country limit the charges of hack, omnibus and dray lines. The statutes of our own state not only provide for the condemnation of private property for the sites of grist-mills but also limit the amount of tolls to be taken for grinding at these mills. In some of the states the charges of innkeepers and the fees of professional men, and in nearly all the states the rates of interest which money-lenders and bank corporations may lawfully take, are regulated and limited by legislative enactment. The power to make these laws, and a multitude of others of like character, rests on the right and duty of the legislature to protect the people by statutory regulations against imposition and extortions.

Upon authority and principle it may be safely asserted that, in the absence of charter contracts to the contrary, the legislature may from time to time regulate and limit the tolls which railroad companies may lawfully take, in the same manner as the legislature may limit the tolls to be taken by ferry, bridge, plank-road and turnpike companies; in the same manner as municipal authorities may regulate and limit the charges of hack, omnibus and dray lines;

in the same manner as the tolls at gristmills, the charges of innkeepers, the fees of professional men, and interest on loaned money may be regulated and limited. These are governmental powers; and by the term "governmental" I here mean not judicial but legislative powers. To declare what the law is, or has been, is a judicial power; to declare what the law shall be, is legislative. The law is applied by the judicial department and made by the legislative. It is both the right and the duty of the legislature not to await the action of the judiciary, where the common law has furnished no adequate remedies for existing evils, but to take the initiative and place limitations upon tolls and charges, and fees and interest, whenever such limitations are essential to the public good; provided, always, that the legislature has not bartered away, absolutely beyond recall, to extortioners, the governmental powers whereby it might otherwise protect the people against their impositions. And this brings us directly to the question, whether or not the governmental powers entrusted to the legislature, to be exercised for the public good, as occasion may require, are the subject matter of contract, of mere bargain and sale.

The following provision was incorporated in the constitution of 1818, and retained in that of 1848:

The powers of the government of the state of Illinois shall be divided into three distinct departments, and each of them be confined to a separate body of magistracy, to-wit: Those which are legislative to one; those which are executive to another; and and those which are judicial to another.—Constitution of 1848, Article 2, Section 1.

I maintain that under this constitutional provision, which has been in force ever



since this state was organized, the legislature has had no power as a party to make a contract, the effect of which would be to control or embarrass its governmental powers and duties. To hold otherwise is to affirm that the legislature may abdicate the authority and relieve itself of the responsibility conferred and imposed upon this department of the government by the sovereign people of the state.

"The people of the state of Illinois, grateful to Almighty God for civil, political and religious liberty confided"—that is the word—confided to the general assembly those powers of the government of the state, which are legislative—for what purpose? "In order to promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty to themselves and their posterity." At the same time they declared in the bill of rights that "all power is inherent in the people, and all free governments are founded on their authority and instituted for their peace, safety and happiness." The legislature of a state is in no just sense the sovereign of the state, for sovereignty is the parent, not the offspring of government. The sovereignty belongs to the people of the state in their original character as an independent community. All political power is inherent—remains in the people. In the language of Chief Justice Taney:

"The powers of sovereignty confided to the legislative body of a state are undoubtedly a trust committed to them, to be executed to the best of their judgment for the public good; and no legislature can, by its own act, disarm their successors of any of the powers or rights of sovereignty confided by the people to the legislative body unless they are authorized to do so by the constitution under which they are elected.

\* \* \* And in every controversy on this subject, the question must depend upon the constitution of the state and extent of power thereby conferred in the legislative body."—*Ohio Life Insurance and Trust Company v. Debolt*, 16 Howard, 431.

The power to regulate the reciprocal rights and duties of common carriers and private citizens who may desire to travel upon highways constructed for the public use is, as we have seen, a governmental power—one of the attributes of sovereignty confided to the legislature to be exercised for the public good. And where is the provision of our state constitution which authorizes one legislature to disarm a succeeding legislature of this power, the proper exercise of which we have been taught by sad experience is so essential to the traveling public?

In another case Justice Woodbury says:

"One of the highest attributes and duties of a legislature is to regulate public matters with all public bodies, no less than the community, from time to time, in the manner which the public welfare may appear to demand. It can neither devolve these duties permanently on other public bodies, not permanently suspend or abandon them itself, without being usually regarded as unfaithful, and indeed, attempting what is wholly beyond its constitutional competency."—*East Hartford v. Hartford Bridge Company*, 10 Howard, 534.

Now, whether railroad corporations are to be regarded as quasi-public bodies, or as private bodies, forming a portion of the community, I maintain that the regulation of rates of toll for the conveyance of persons and property upon railroads—the public highways—as the public welfare may demand, is a legislative duty, the permanent

suspension or abandonment of which is wholly beyond the constitutional competency of the legislature. Moreover, a grant by a public agent bound in the most solemn manner not to throw away the governmental interest confided to it, is different from a grant by an individual who is master of the subject. The corporation which accepts from the legislature exemption from governmental control, knowing that it is dealing with an agent bound by duty not to impair a public right, does so at its peril. Nay, more; the corporation which accepts from the legislature a grant of any essential attribute of sovereignty, would be treated both in morals and in law as a party to a fraud upon the inherent rights of the people.

The same constitutional provision confides legislative powers to one body, executive powers to another, and judicial powers to another. If legislative powers may be disposed of by contract, why may not executive and judicial powers be sold? We all recognize the principle that executive and judicial powers are entrusted to the governor and the judges to be exercised by them while in office, and then turned over unimpaired to their successors. I believe that the day is not far distant when the courts of this country will settle down on the firm fundamental principle that no department of the government, be it legislative, executive, or judicial, can abandon, diminish or bargain away, for any consideration, or upon any pretense whatever, the governmental powers entrusted to it by the sovereign people, to be exercised for the promotion of the general welfare.

When the people in this state, in 1818, and again in 1848, confided to the general assembly the legislative power of this state, was it contemplated that the agents en-

trusted with these governmental powers would sell any portion of them to other organizations, or parcel them out by contract to private corporations? It is a well-settled principle that where a trust is confided to any class of persons, the trustees cannot transfer that trust to others. "What trust, what confidence is more sacred, more responsible, than the power to make the laws of a free people? The power is not only delegated to the two branches of the legislature, but there is an obligation—a duty imposed upon them to make all such laws as are necessary and proper for the interests of the people, and good order of the body politic."

The language of our State constitution, reason, and sound policy, all concur in bringing us to the conclusion that the law-making power being entrusted to the legislature by the constitution, to be exercised as occasion may require, for the promotion of the general welfare, cannot be permanently transferred to any other body. If the courts will fall back upon this principle, we need not feel alarmed at the growth and power of corporations. They are dangerous to the people only as they are allowed, under the pretense of a bargain, to appropriate to their own purposes the governmental powers confided to the legislature.

"The great object of any incorporation," says Chief Justice Marshall, "is to bestow the character and properties of individuality on a collective and changing body of men."—*Providence v. Billings*, 4 Peters, 562.

The creation of private corporations—the bestowal of the attributes of individuality upon these ideal creatures—placing them, as to legal rights, on the same footing with natural persons—are proper subjects of legislative action. And we readily concede



that these ideal creatures—private corporations—cannot be arbitrarily destroyed by the legislature, and that the rights which they may possess by virtue of their individuality or existence are protected by the same constitution, which is the Magna Charta of the whole people. But in the language of Justice Daniel:

“The opinion seems to have obtained that the right of property in a chartered corporation was more sacred and intangible than the same right could possibly be in the person of a citizen; an opinion which must be without any grounds to rest upon until it can be demonstrated that the ideal creature is more than a person, or the corporeal being is less.” *West River Bridge Company v. Dix*, 6 Howard, 533.

The legislature may irrevocably dispose of the lands and public buildings and other property of the state. These are the proper subjects of contract and sale. But a legislative contract to surrender forever to a private corporation any portion of the governmental powers of this State is, in my opinion, unconstitutional and void. It is unconstitutional, because the constitutional provision, which has been in force here ever since we had a state organization, confides—intrusts—these powers to the legislature to be exercised for the promotion of the general welfare, not to be bartered away. It is void, because it is a contract in violation of public duty, and without a competent subject matter. The legislature cannot deal—cannot traffic—with a sovereign right as private property. Says Justice Daniel:

“I never can believe in that, to my mind, suicidal, doctrine, which confers upon one legislature, the creatures and limited agents of the sovereign people, the power, by a

breach of duty and transcending the commission with which they are clothed, to bind forever and irrevocably their creator, for whose benefit and by whose authority alone they are delegated to act, to consequences however mischievous or destructive.”—*Ohio Life Insurance and Trust Company v. Debolt*, 16 Howard, 443.

And, right here let me ask, From what one source have the people of this state suffered more mischievous consequences than from the free exercise of the assumed right, on the part of the legislature, to sell out to railroad corporations the power of fixing and exacting from the community rates of toll without limitations? In resisting the usurpations of these wealthy and powerful corporations, we have turned our attention too much to that clause of the constitution of the United States which provides that no state shall pass any law impairing the obligation of contracts, and have not paid sufficient attention to that section of our state constitution which confides, and only confides, the legislative power of the government to the general assembly, and to that section of the bill of rights which declares that “all power is inherent in the people.” We must not forget that a legislative act or charter may contain unconstitutional provisions. The real question is not one of vested rights under a contract, but one of constitutional power to make the contract. The legislature cannot change the constitution, or make a new constitution, and yet it would be doing just this if it could limit the governmental powers of a future legislature. And, therefore, I maintain that corporations are subject to governmental powers the same as individuals—that the charges of railway corporations can be regulated and

limited by legislative enactment, the same as the tolls of ferry, bridge, plank-road and turnpike companies; the same as the charges of hack, omnibus and dray lines; the same as the tolls of millers, the charges of innkeepers, the fees of professional men and interest on loaned money. The powers to make these regulations and limitations are, unquestionably, legislative, governmental powers, and neither these nor any other legislative powers of a governmental nature can be irrevocably disposed of by contract to any individual or corporation. There are and can be no vested rights of governmental power in any individual or corporation except those conferred by the constitution.

Will any gentleman take the position that the legislature can endow an individual or corporation with the vested right to commit a crime, or perpetrate fraud, or practice imposition upon the public? I think not. One legislature cannot, by contract or otherwise, prohibit succeeding legislatures from enacting laws for the prevention and punishment of crime, fraud and imposition. But railroad corporations declare that they have bought from the legislature the power to establish and exact the exorbitant charges they are now every day extorting from the people. Under the claim of vested rights they bid defiance to—I was about to say—the government; but according to the conceit of these corporations, there is no government that can control and regulate and limit their demands. Each claims to be, in this respect, a government unto itself—a sovereignty within a sovereignty.

The people sooner or later will break away from the theory that a railroad, or any private corporation, can have a vested

right in any governmental power. Let the next legislature enact substantially the railway laws of England, regulating and limiting the rates of freight and passenger tariffs, and I firmly believe that the courts would hold that such a re-assertion of governmental control over railroad rates is not an interference with vested rights.

The time was when city or other municipal corporations claimed that, by virtue of their charters, they held vested rights in governmental powers. Even now the legislature cannot confiscate the private property of a municipal corporation, or change the uses of its private funds acquired under the public faith. But the courts have long since held that the legislature cannot transfer to a municipal corporation irrevocable, vested rights in governmental powers. And, for one, I am ready to take the broad position that it is not, and never has been, in the power of the legislature of this state to bind its governmental capacities, by any arrangements or stipulations, with either public or private corporations, so as to disable itself from enacting laws that may be deemed essential for the public good. The sovereign people, and the sovereign people alone, by the adoption of constitutional provisions, can restrict and bind the governmental capacities of the legislature.

After Judge Benjamin ceased speaking it was apparent that his argument pleased the majority of his colleagues, several of whom rose to their feet and sanctioned what he said in no uncertain terms. The following endorsements are copied from the reports:

(Mr. Ross)—Mr. Chairman: I cheerfully subscribe to the views of the gentleman from McLean (Mr. Benjamin). I think that the convention and the people of the

state owe him a debt of gratitude. It has the true ring of the doctrine that should be inculcated by all our statesmen.

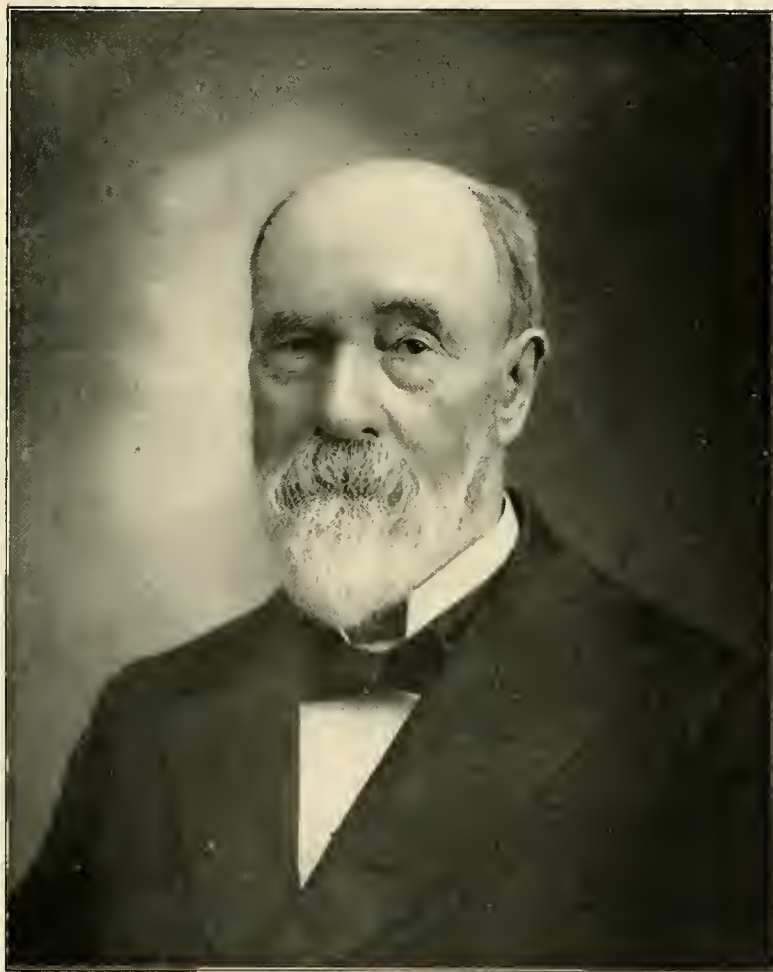
(Mr. Bromwell) — Mr. Chairman: I am very much gratified to see the manner in which this discussion starts in this convention. There have been doubts expressed whether this convention, upon coming to this subject, would take the proper stand to secure the rights of the people which have been so long trifled with and trampled under foot by the interpretation of the law in this state; and I agree with the gentleman from Fulton (Mr. Ross) that the community at large owes the gentleman from McLean (Mr. Benjamin) thanks for the masterly manner in which he has demonstrated the right and the power of the people, inhering in, ever living, and ever present, to command in the name of and for the people, the creatures which they have put on foot, the corporations which they have organized, in respect to the terms upon which they shall enjoy those invaluable franchises which they are lawfully permitted to enjoy.

**HON. RICHARD EDWARDS, A. M., LL. D.** We are now permitted to touch briefly upon the life history of one who has been prominently identified with the educational affairs of Illinois for over thirty-five years, and it is but just and merited praise to say that as an educator he ranks among the best in the state, and has probably done as much as any other man to raise the standard of schools in this great commonwealth. He has been instructor and director in academies and colleges, and as state superintendent re-organized and developed the entire school sys-

tem. Although seventy-seven years of age, he still takes an active part in educational affairs, being at the present time connected with the Wesleyan University at Bloomington.

Dr. Edwards is a native of Wales, born near Aberystwith, Cardiganshire, December 23, 1822. His father, Richard Edwards, Sr., was born in the same place, in 1799, and was there married in 1821, to Miss Ann Jones, who was born in 1801, a daughter of William and Margaret Jones, farming people of the parish of Lledrod, Wales. The Doctor's paternal grandfather was Hugh Richard, a stone mason by trade. The father was also a brick and stone mason in his native land. In 1833, he and his family sailed for the new world and first located in Portage county, Ohio, but in 1849 located near Oshkosh, Wisconsin, where he purchased a farm and to its improvement and cultivation he devoted his energies until called from this life, in 1852. He left six children. The mother died in 1876.

Like other members of the family, Dr. Edwards spoke nothing but Welsh on coming to this country, and as his early life here was devoted to the arduous task of clearing and cultivating wild land, he had little opportunity of attending even the primitive district schools of those early days in the west. Until attaining manhood he continued to assist his father, with the exception of a few weeks each winter when pursuing his studies in the local schools, but by severe exertion he obtained two terms' instruction in the village school before he was twenty-two, and he also learned the carpenter's trade. He devoted his spare moments to reading, of which he was fond, and with the hope of fitting himself for some profes-



HON. RICHARD EDWARDS.

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sion he went to Bridgewater, Massachusetts, in 1844, and entered the State Normal at that place. Having no means, he lived with extreme self-denial, teaching at intervals to get money for his support while studying. In this way he completed the course in that institute and also paid his way through Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute at Troy, New York, where he graduated with honors. During the time spent at Bridgewater, he had attracted the attention of New England educators, and when through school at Troy his services were in demand as a teacher. He first taught in the Bridgewater State Normal and then became principal of the State Normal at Salem, Massachusetts, then accepted a call to the principalship of the St. Louis (Missouri) Normal School. Later he was principal of the St. Louis high school, and in 1862 he was given charge of the State Normal, at Normal, Illinois, where he remained for thirteen years and a half, during which time the attendance was increased from two hundred and eighty to seven hundred and seventy-seven, and the fame of the institute as one of model control, economical management and beneficial results became wide spread. In addition to having direct charge of the Normal School, Dr. Edwards took an active interest in the schools throughout the state and his services as an organizer were always in request. He labored incessantly to build up the grand system of schools which is now such a source of just pride to the people of Illinois, and in this work he was ably sustained by the board of education with a unanimity which was surprising, considering the height to which political prejudices at times arose. When Dr. Edwards announced his intention of resigning the management of the Normal School, January 1, 1876, a strong protest

arose from both Democrats and Republicans, but to no avail, and with the resolution accepting his resignation it was put on record that the board endorsed his wise management and control of the school and gave him credit for making it the "best normal school on the continent."

On the 3d of July, 1849, Dr. Edwards was united in marriage with Miss Betsey J. Samson, a native of Pembroke, Massachusetts, and a lady of culture and refinement, who is also a graduate of the Bridgewater Normal and was for some time a successful teacher. The children born of this union are as follows: Annie E., wife of Newton C. Dougherty, superintendent of schools in Peoria; Richard A., cashier of First National Bank, of Peru, Indiana; Ellen S., was for some years a teacher in Colorado College, Colorado; Mary C., wife of Dr. D. C. Tyler, of Clifton, Kansas; Rev. Nicholas T., now pastor of the First Congregational church of Escondido, California; George H., a member and manager of the Edwards & Sloan Jewelry Company, of Kansas City, Missouri; Walter A., president of the Throop Polytechnic Institute, of Pasadena, California; Owen M., a teacher in the high school of Sandwich, Illinois, and a graduate of the Wesleyan University; and Florence M., who is at home and for some time was a teacher in Normal.

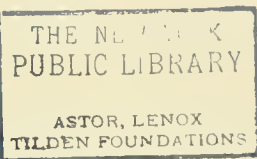
At Normal, December 23, 1873, Dr. Edwards was ordained a minister of the Congregational church by the Central Illinois Congregational Association, and on resigning the presidency of the Normal School he accepted the pastorate of the Congregational church at Princeton, Illinois, where he remained from 1876 until 1885, his success in the pulpit being fully as great as that in the school room. He maintained his rela-

tion with the Congregational church until going to Carlinville, when he united with the Presbyterian church and joined the Alton Presbytery. His wife and family now hold membership in the Second Presbyterian church of Bloomington, while he is a member of the Bloomington Presbytery. He had joined the Second Presbyterian church of Bloomington, in 1863, but for the sake of establishing a church at Normal, where no church at that time existed, he united with the Congregationalists and was one of the founders of the Congregational church at that place. The only secret society with which he has ever been connected was the Union League at St. Louis during the war, at which time Judge Drake, of Washington, was also one of its members.

While pastor of the Congregational church at Princeton, Dr. Edwards' connection with educational work was almost uninterrupted, but he was not identified with any particular school or college except for eighteen months when acting as financial agent for Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois. He was, however, constantly addressing teachers' institutes, giving advice to school boards and counseling young instructors and students. In 1886 he was elected on the Republican ticket as superintendent of public instruction for the state, and during his four years in office the school law was revised and codified under his personal direction; a syllabus of work for teachers' institutes was prepared and a course of study for country schools mapped out, a committee of county superintendents assisting in the task. The energetic manner in which the office was administered convinced the legislature that the state superintendent of schools was an important member of the government, and a law was passed enlarg-

ing his duties and powers, and by the same act he was made a member of the board of trustees for the State University at Champaign and the State Normal at Carbondale, which did much to bring both institutions to a high state of perfection. In 1890, Dr. Edwards was renominated, but the Republicans being unsuccessful that year, he was defeated.

On the expiration of his term in 1891, he was elected to the presidency of Blackburn University at Carlinville, Illinois, and did a grand work in building up that institution. He had a very able corps of assistants, the attendance was largely increased, and he left the school in a very promising condition. His work there was too much for him, and he broke down, being obliged to resign in 1893. He came to Bloomington, in April of that year, but was present at the closing exercises of the class of 1893. For some time he practically lived retired, though he lectured in different parts of the state at educational meetings and also preached occasionally as the occasion required, having filled most of the pulpits in the towns of Normal, Lexington and neighboring places. In 1897, he was offered and accepted the chair of psychology and ethics in the Illinois Wesleyan University. He is now giving a series of lectures in that institution on pedagogy, or the science of teaching, and is particularly well adapted to that class of work, having made it a study for many years. Dr. Edwards' attainments as a scholar and his remarkable success as an instructor have been recognized by the bestowal of the degree of Master of Arts by Harvard University, and of Doctor of Laws by Shurtleff College, also that of D. D. from Blackburn University of Carlinville. He is an active and prominent member of





NIMROD KERRICK.

Alumni Club, and recently prepared an able paper on the Congestion of Population in Cities, a subject that required a thorough examination of facts. In many ways he is a remarkable man, strong and convincing as a public speaker and familiar with every detail of the public school problem, and is quick of thought and resolute of action. He has met with unbounded success where a man of less ability would have failed, and to-day ranks high among the ablest educators of the state.

REVEREND NIMROD KERRICK was born October 16, 1808, in Loudon county, Virginia. He was the first born of Thomas and Phoebe Kerrick. He died in Bloomington, Illinois, December 13, 1897, having completed two months of his ninetieth year. His death resulted from injuries received three months before by falling upon the brick pavement, as he was walking from his own to the house of one of his sons, near by. Up to the day of this accident he was in good health, having comfortable use of all of his faculties. Free from bodily pains, clear and vigorous in mind, he enjoyed the society of his family and friends and books through all his declining years.

Mr. Kerrick's boyhood was spent on a Virginia farm. Until he was sixteen years old he had attended school but a few months, all told. From eleven to sixteen he had but three weeks of schooling; this was a source of regret to him all his life. He had a strong natural thirst for knowledge from early youth. Having learned to read well while a small boy, he read again and again such few books as were within his reach; some of these he read so often that he knew them almost as well as if he had himself written them. Probably few men have lived who

knew the Bible as well as Mr. Kerrick; he could repeat from memory, with astonishing accuracy, a large part of it.

Mr. Kerrick's most remarkable memory and his long life together made him a real connecting link between the earlier and modern times of our country. He well remembered General LaFayette's visit to the United States in 1824. The general was in Leesburg, not more than ten or twelve miles away, but young Nimrod could do just as good a day's work on the farm that day, and he was left to do it while the older ones went to greet the hero.

In the fall of 1824 Mr. Kerrick moved with his parents to Muskingum county, Ohio, traveling overland in a wagon. He often spoke of meeting on this trip with General Jackson, near Wheeling, Virginia, who was going to Washington to make his contest in the House of Representatives for the presidency, the election having been indecisive. Mr. Kerrick could describe minutely the general's dress, his carriage, the number of his horses and attendants, the exact order of travel, etc. Hearing him relate the circumstances of this meeting one could almost see the great Tennesseean and his outfit. ("My mother was a comely woman, still young, and the general bowed graciously to her as he passed.") The Kerricks were not for Jackson for president, but that "gracious bow" to the "comely mother" palliated Jackson politics to a sensible degree; one could still see it after seventy years, as Mr. Kerrick related the incident.

The family remained in Ohio but two years, then pushed on to southeastern Indiana, which region became their permanent home. The first settlement was made in Franklin county, but later, lands were



taken and a final settlement made in Decatur county.

At about twenty years of age Mr. Kerrick had the only severe, or dangerous sickness of his long life; recovering from this, but not yet strong, he took a school to teach, and thus accidentally discovered his talent which was for teaching. About this time he met Thomas O'Brien, a noted Irish school master, who had received a liberal education in the old world. Mr. Kerrick became O'Brien's pupil and later his assistant; the two became fast friends and inseparable companions. The meeting with Thomas O'Brien was most fortunate for Mr. Kerrick. It is difficult to conceive how his great desire for learning and education could have been gratified in that time but for this meeting. O'Brien patiently and faithfully imparted while the younger man eagerly absorbed the culture and learning that the former had acquired under more favorable conditions in Europe.

For twenty years Mr. Kerrick was a school master; he was eminently successful. Near Blooming Grove, Franklin county, enterprising farmers and villagers built a substantial brick house for his school, and here he taught ten consecutive years. He was able to carry his pupils far beyond the schools of his time and region. In mathematics he took pupils as far as trigonometry and surveying, and many of them became practical surveyors. His name became, and is to-day, a household word in all that region. It is probably not outside the truth to say that the character of no man, high or low, was so deeply impressed upon the people of the White Water Valley as the character of Nimrod Kerrick. Many of the men and women of that rapidly growing population received all the schooling they

ever had from Mr. Kerrick, and many more received the larger part of their schooling from him. His unusual attainments and his pronounced instincts for teaching afforded the young people of the country opportunities that were not common in that time. Among Mr. Kerrick's other attainments he wrote a beautiful, plain, uniform "hand." The writer of this sketch has received letters written within two or three years past, by a man who was a pupil of Mr. Kerrick in that brick school house, and it would require an expert to tell that writing now from Mr. Kerrick's. This incident is mentioned to illustrate the powerful influence of a true teacher and how that influence is perpetuated.

Happily for the great company of young men and young women who came under his influence as a teacher, Mr. Kerrick's influence was always for good. He was a man of singularly pure character. Through all his long journey of life he walked uprightly, worked righteousness, and spoke the truth in his heart.

Although born in a slave state, Mr. Kerrick cherished from boyhood a hearty dislike for that slavery. He was a Republican in politics—a total abstainer from every kind of strong drink. He was of medium height and weight—in physical form a model, muscular, agile, possessing wonderful physical endurance. He was a profoundly grateful man for the blessings of life—satisfied and thankful always for simple food and plain clothing, but the best of anything was never too good, in his estimation, for his family.

All men, high and low, rich and poor, were men and brethren to him; he had equal good will for all of them; he respected men as men, not according to class or con-

dition. He was strangely oblivious to distinctions among men; he had but one purpose toward them all, which was to do them good, and he approached them all, whether of high or of low degree, in the same respectful and interested spirit.

Mr. Kerrick was a member and a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church. He was first licensed to preach in 1848. In 1858 he entered the southeastern Indiana conference. His first circuit had nineteen appointments; he met and preached at all of these at least once a month. His last appointment was Liberty, Union county. At the close of his ministry there, he moved to Woodford county, Illinois, and thereafter his occupation was farming, the same to which he was used when a boy. This move and change of occupation was made in the interest, wholly, of his family. Without doubt his own inclination would have led him to continue in professional life; but he had now three good-sized boys, and for them he wisely judged that the farm would offer better opportunities than the town for a right start in life. No preference or wish of his own could stand for a moment against what he considered to be for the interest of his family.

While on the farm, Mr. Kerrick still continued to preach often. He was sought for to supply vacancies occasioned by sickness or absence of regular pastors. He was a Methodist, but not a sectarian. He frequently preached for other denominations, and always heartily enjoyed attending the preaching services of any Christian denomination. He preached many funerals, especially of soldiers of the war for the Union. By younger ministers he was greatly revered and beloved, and he was often able to help them, which gave him the highest pleasure.

Mr. Kerrick was married May 4, 1839, at Fairfield, Franklin county, Indiana, to Miss Mary Masters. Miss Masters was a native of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, but removed when a young woman with her parents to Indiana. Five children were born to the pair, two daughters and three sons; the eldest daughter, and the eldest of the family, Mrs. Cyrus Mull, resides in Manilla, Rush county, Indiana. The second daughter, Mrs. W. H. Bracken, resides in Brookville, Franklin county. The oldest son, William M., was killed in battle, he fell in the desperate charge of the Union forces upon the Confederate works at Vicksburg, May 22, 1863. He was barely nineteen years old when he was killed. The second son, Leonidas H., and the youngest, Thomas C., reside in Bloomington, Illinois. Mr. Kerrick's last years were spent in Bloomington. Mrs. Kerrick survives, and still maintains the home in which Mr. Kerrick died. At the advanced age of eighty-three years, she possesses remarkable health and strength. Her well-known and exceptionally strong mental characteristics remain to her unimpaired.

We have given herein a brief and very imperfect account of a remarkable life; a life, it is true, not distinguished by deeds which startle or which bring renown; but a long, faithful, unselfish life, full of labors for the enlightenment and uplifting of mankind; a life that touched many other lives, and always to do them good—never to do them harm.

HON. CHRISTIAN F. KOCH. There is no element which has entered into our composite national fabric which has been of more practical strength, value and utility than that furnished by the sturdy,

persevering and honorable sons of Germany, and in the progress of our union this element has played an important part. Intensely practical, and ever having a clear comprehension of the ethics of life, the German contingent has wielded a powerful influence, and this service cannot be held in light estimation by those who appreciate true civilization and true advancement.

Among Bloomington's most popular citizens is Mr. Koch, its present mayor, who was born in Eslingen, Wurtemberg, Germany, March 17, 1849, and when a child of three years was brought to this country by his parents, John F. and Caroline T. (Deininger) Koch, also natives of the Fatherland. His maternal grandfather, Johan Fredric Deininger, was of old French Huguenot stock, his ancestors having been driven from France by the edict of Nantes and taking refuge in Wurtemberg. The Deininger family can be traced back to 1600. John Koch, father of our subject, belonged to a family of very extensive mill owners, and he himself was a millwright by trade, being one of the first in Bloomington. On coming to the new world the family first located in Cincinnati, Ohio, but five years later took up their residence in Bloomington when its population was not over two thousand. For a number of years the father was foreman in the old marble furniture factory in this city, and here he died in 1876. The mother is still living and makes her home in Bloomington. Both were faithful members of the German Methodist Episcopal church.

Christian F. Koch began his education in the public schools, and for two years was a student in the Wesleyan University of Bloomington. Having learned the millwright's trade, he worked with his father

for four or five years and then embarked in the grocery business on West Front street, where he still carries on operations with marked success. In 1892 he assisted in organizing the German National Loan Association, of which he has been president from the start, and is also a director of the Equitable Loan Association, now the leading association of the kind in this part of the country. He is also connected as president with an insurance order, known as the Pioneer Reserve Association, which now has a membership of one thousand, largely Bloomington people, but subordinate branches have been started at Peoria, Lincoln, Pontiac, Normal and other places, and so rapidly is it growing that its membership will undoubtedly number between two and three thousand before the close of the year.

Mr. Koch married Miss Katie L. Feisel, a daughter of Rev. Jacob Feisel, a prominent pioneer Methodist Episcopal minister of this state, who had charge of a German congregation in Bloomington at an early day, and was a presiding elder for a number of years. He died about three years ago in Quincy. To Mr. and Mrs. Koch were born two daughters: Lulu C., now the wife of H. W. Peters, of St. Louis, Missouri; and Emma K., who died in June, 1896.

Since attaining his majority, Mr. Koch has been prominently identified with the Republican party, and served as alderman from the third ward from 1883 until 1887. In the spring of 1890, he was urged to accept the nomination for mayor on the Republican ticket, and though he made no particular effort, he was elected by a handsome majority over a prominent man in the Democratic field. Never were the reins of city government in more capable hands,



and one noteworthy feature of his administration was the final settlement with the Jenney Electric Light Company, which had established a plant here and taken advantage of the people in various ways. It was necessary to annul the contract with them, and it finally resulted in a settlement under which the city came into absolute possession of a plant at a cost of nineteen thousand dollars less than the original contract price. He was not re-elected at the succeeding election as it was his intention to withdraw from politics. In the spring of 1897 a reorganization of the city under the general law was strongly agitated by business men and citizens in general as there had been some dissatisfaction with the special charter and the preceding administration. There seemed to be a general disposition on the part of the people to turn over a new leaf to the extent of getting under the general law and a broader government, better adapted to the advanced needs and wants of the city, and a general change in the council and administration of the city. This resulted in Mr. Koch being again strongly urged to enter the field as the Republican nominee for mayor. His nomination was uncontested and he was triumphantly elected. He has since worked under the new form of government, and during this administration many improvements have been made in the city, including the erection of a new city hall. It is one of the best paved cities of its size in the country, having now about twenty-four miles of paved streets and having expended for paving twenty-five thousand dollars, the property owners fifty thousand, making a total of seventy-five thousand dollars, during the two years of Mr. Koch's incumbency of the office.

Mr. Koch and his family hold membership in the German Methodist church, of which he is a trustee and treasurer, and in which he has also served as superintendent of the Sunday school. Socially, he is quite prominent; is a member of Mozart Lodge, F. & A. M.; and is past chancellor of Blucher Lodge, K. P., of which he is one of the founders, having been a member of the mother lodge—Damon, No. 10. He is president of the Bloomington Colliseum Association, which has erected a building at a cost of about twenty thousand dollars. He is emphatically a man of enterprise, positive character, indomitable energy, strict integrity and liberal views, and is thoroughly identified with the growth and prosperity of his adopted city and state.

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JOHN MATHER FOSTER is one of the most prosperous farmers and influential citizens of Dale township, McLean county, Illinois. His career has been most remarkable, yet his success is by no means the result of fortunate circumstances, for it has come to him through energy, labor and perseverance, directed by an evenly balanced mind and by honorable business principles. He is a man of keen discrimination and sound judgment, and in business affairs is energetic, prompt and notably reliable.

Mr. Foster was born in Meigs township, Muskingum county, Ohio, May 30, 1833, a son of John and Celia Ann (Ballou) Foster, natives of New Hampshire and Ohio respectively. The paternal grandfather, John Mathers Foster, Sr., a descendant of Increase Mather, of colonial fame, was educated for the ministry, but preferring the legal profession, he afterward read law. From New Hampshire he removed to Mas-

sachusetts, and when the father of our subject was eleven years old went to Ohio, where he engaged in the practice of his chosen profession and also taught school. He died in that state. He married Mrs. Alice (West) Carlyle, who was the grandmother of our subject. He had one brother, William S. Foster, who served as a colonel in the Revolutionary war.

John Foster, father of our subject, came from New Hampshire to Indiana at the age of eleven years, remaining until the age of seventeen, when, finding that the man he was working for was not reliable financially, he left without any money and walked back to his old home in Ohio, in company with his uncle, William Stevens, sleeping out many nights on the way, or in barns whenever he could get permission. On reaching home he began work for his uncle, Col. William Foster, and with the money thus earned paid off an indebtedness of three dollars and seventeen cents. He then had ten dollars in silver remaining, and with this he began life for himself. At first he worked at any employment which he could find, and finally saved enough money with which to purchase a small tract of land at one dollar and a quarter per acre. This he cleared and improved himself, and after building a little home thereon, he married Miss Celia Ann Ballou, a daughter of Welcome Ballou, a representative of a prominent pioneer family of Ohio from Rhode Island. Her mother, who bore the maiden name of Arelia Taft, was a native of Massachusetts. Mr. Foster brought his bride on horseback to the home he had prepared for her, and as he prospered in his farming operations he added to his place from time to time until he had a good sized farm, which he finally

sold to his only brother, Dan Foster, for ten thousand dollars. Upon that place our subject was born. The father went to New York and invested seven thousand dollars in a stock of goods, which he took to Cumberland, Ohio, opening up a store at that place. Although this was his first experience in mercantile trade, he prospered in his new undertaking and continued in business there for several years. He had the entire confidence and respect of his fellow citizens and was called upon to fill many township offices. On selling his store he purchased a farm adjoining the town, and there he continued to make his home until coming west, though he retained the place for some time afterward, it being finally sold by our subject for thirty thousand one hundred dollars. He was extensively interested in sheep raising, and one year sold ten thousand pounds of wool for over ten thousand dollars. In Vermont he purchased seventy-three of the Spanish merino sheep, for which he paid seven thousand six hundred dollars, which he took to his home, where he already had from five hundred to one thousand Pennsylvania merinos and blacktops. He was the first in his community to import those animals; he crossed the breeds and has sold many as high as three hundred dollars a head. In 1866 Mr. Foster came to McLean county, in company with his wife's parents and our subject, having the year previous purchased the farm in Dale township now owned and occupied by his son, who at that time was given charge of the place, while he practically lived retired for many years. He also purchased nine hundred and forty-five acres in Ford county, which afterward became the property of our subject's sons, Charles, John, Loren and Ivan. It is under a high



state of cultivation and pleasantly located near Gibson City. The father had charge of that farm until failing eyesight rendered him almost blind. He always lived with our subject, and here died May 11, 1898, when almost ninety-two years of age, his birth having occurred November 12, 1806. He was a shrewd, capable business man, and his advice was often sought by his neighbors and friends, who held him in high regard on account of his sterling worth and many excellencies of character. Politically, he was first a Whig and later a Republican. His estimable wife, who was born June 27, 1812, is still living. Of the five children born to them, three reached years of maturity, but only our subject and Mrs. Eliza McClellan, of Champaign county, Illinois, are now living.

During his boyhood and youth, John M. Foster, of this review, received a good practical education and for two years he successfully engaged in teaching school. When his father retired from mercantile life and purchased his farm near Cumberland our subject was given charge of the sheep, which was a very responsible position. He discharged his duties in a highly satisfactory manner, however, and displayed excellent business ability in the sale of both sheep and wool. In his native state, Mr. Foster married Miss Electa B. Moore, of Noble county, Ohio, who died before he came west, leaving one son, Charles M., a prosperous farmer of Ford county, Illinois, who was four years old when brought by his father to this state. Mr. Foster was again married, April 1, 1868, his second union being with Miss Alice King, who was born August 29, 1847, a daughter of William and Ann King, of Bloomington township. Four children blessed this union: John

Stanhope, born October 9, 1870, married Ella Vaughan, and is now engaged in farming in Ford county; Loren K., born March 25, 1875, married Myrta Moberly, by whom he has one child, and now has charge of his father's farm; Ivan V., born August 22, 1879, died January 14, 1897; and Alice Bal-lou, born December 14, 1882, is at home.

After successfully managing his father's farm for a few years, Mr. Foster was given a small place, to which he has added from time to time as his financial resources have increased until he now has almost eight hundred acres of valuable land in Bloomington and Dale township, being one of its heaviest tax payers. He generally raises from five to twenty thousand bushels of corn annually and now has sixty thousand bushels upon the place, the crops of three years. As a stock raiser he has also met with excellent success, making a specialty of hogs and shorthorn cattle. In his political views, Mr. Foster has always been a stalwart Republican, and was a great admirer of President Garfield, of whom his mother was a second cousin; he has never cared for political preferment but for twenty-five years has most creditably and acceptably served as school director in his district. In the progress of his community he has ever manifested a deep interest and has ever taken his part in support of those measures calculated to prove of public benefit.

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GEORGE B. KELSO, M. D. Canada has furnished to the United States many bright, enterprising young men who have left the Dominion to enter the business and professional circles of this country. Among this number is Dr. Kelso, proprietor of the

Bloomington Home Sanitarium and a leading physician of that city. He inherited somewhat of the strong, rugged and persevering characteristics developed by his earlier environment; which, coupled with the livelier impulses of his Celtic blood, made him at an early day seek wider fields in which to give full scope to his ambition and industry—his dominant qualities.

The Doctor was born in Bruce, Ontario, Canada, June 16, 1860, and is a son of Thompson and Mary (Cameron) Kelso. The father was born in the north of Ireland, of Scotch ancestry, the family having fled thither from their old home in Scotland on account of persecution during Cromwell's reign in England. When a young man, the father crossed the Atlantic and took up his residence near Ottawa, Canada. There he married Mary Cameron, who was born in Cornwall, Canada, and belonged to an old Scotch family. Soon after their marriage they removed to Bruce when that region was an almost unbroken wilderness, being numbered among its pioneers. There the father developed a farm, on which he and his wife still reside. In early life they united with the Episcopal church, but now hold membership in the Presbyterian church, with which he is officially connected. Politically he is a Liberal, and has taken quite an active and prominent part in local politics, and has been called upon to fill a number of official positions.

Dr. Kelso is the third in order of birth in a family of ten children, and in the common and high schools of his native province, he acquired a good practical education, which well fitted him to engage in teaching—a profession which he successfully followed for three and a half years as principal of the village school. In the

meantime he read medicine; and later pursued a three, years course in the medical department of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, where he was graduated in 1886. He first opened an office at Newberry, Upper Michigan, and during the year and a half he spent at that place was quite successful, there being a great deal of surgical work to be done in the lumber camps. He next engaged in practice for a short time at Ishpeming, Michigan, near Marquette, but as the climate did not agree with his health, he was forced to leave a good practice and come further south.

In October, 1886, Dr. Kelso married Dr. Anna E. Caldwell Clark, who had graduated with him at Ann Arbor. She is a native of Oxford, Maine, and prior to reading medicine had received a good classical and musical education in the east and abroad. In the fall of 1888 they came to Bloomington, and at first engaged only in general practice. Being among the first lady physicians in the city, Mrs. Kelso was soon at the head of a good practice, and in 1894 they established the Bloomington Home Sanitarium, which they have since so successfully conducted. They started in a small way, but as their patronage steadily increased, they enlarged their facilities in 1897 by adding fifteen rooms to their building for surgical work, and also a fine operating room, with all necessary appliances. They are now well prepared to treat all kinds of surgical and medical cases, and take both male and female patients. The sanitarium is centrally located, and is the only one in the city, and besides having a fine home patronage, their patients come from all parts of Illinois and surrounding states.

Fraternally, both the Doctor and his

wife are members of the Central Illinois Homeopathic Medical Society. He is a close and thorough student, a man of deep research, and his investigations into the science of medicine and his skillful application of the knowledge he has thereby obtained has won him a place in the foremost ranks of the medical fraternity. Among the secret societies to which he belongs are Bloomington Lodge, No. 44, F. & A. M.; Remembrance Lodge, I. O. O. F., in which he has passed all the chairs; and the Knights of Pythias fraternity. At present he is serving as medical examiner for the Odd Fellows Lodge. Besides his sanitarium, he owns a pleasant home in Bloomington, where he and his wife delight to entertain their many friends.

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**H**ORACE W. ELDER, M. D., is engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery in Bloomington, and has that love for and devotion to his profession which has brought to him success and won him a place among the ablest representatives of the medical fraternity in the county. He was born in Bloomington, November 28, 1859, and is a son of Dr. William A. Elder, now deceased, who was a prominent and successful physician of that city. The father was a native of Waterloo, New York, and on coming west when a young man, first located in St. Louis, where he read medicine and graduated from the St. Louis Medical College. He came to Bloomington and for many years was one of the leading and influential citizens of the place, as well as one of its ablest medical practitioners. He was one of the founders of the public library of the city and was a faithful member of the Second Presbyterian

church. He died January 3, 1895, honored and respected by all who knew him. The mother of our subject was in her maidenhood Miss Mary E. Owen, a daughter of Dr. Robert C. Owen, of Homer, New York. She is still living in Bloomington and is a member of the Episcopal church. Our subject is the oldest of the three children of the family, the others being Lillian, wife of J. P. Walker, of Bloomington; and Josephine M., at home.

During his boyhood and youth Dr. Elder, of this review, attended the public schools of his native city and was graduated from the high school in 1876. He then studied pharmacy for two years in the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, and on his return to Bloomington was employed as a drug clerk until 1885, when he embarked in the drug business on his own account, conducting a store there for six years. Going to St. Louis, he took a two years course in the Marion Simms Medical College and one year at the Barnes Medical College, from which he was graduated in the spring of 1893. The following year he spent in Chicago, and in 1894 went to Philadelphia, taking a post-graduate course at Jefferson Medical College. Five years of preparation had well fitted him for his chosen profession, and on opening an office in Bloomington in 1895, he was not long in building up an excellent practice. After the death of his father many of his old patients came to our subject, and he now has quite an extensive private practice. He is also a member of the medical staff of the Deaconess Hospital, and also has charge of the general practice in the Bloomington Free Polyclinic, of which he is one of the founders and which has proved quite a success, having between five and six thousand



treatments the first year. He gives his entire attention to the duties of his profession, is examining physician for a number of prominent insurance companies, and is a prominent member of the McLean County Medical Society. He is a progressive physician and keeps well posted on the latest discoveries and theories in the science of medicine and surgery. Of a pleasant, genial manner, he makes many friends, is quite prominent socially, and is a member of the Royal Arcanum.

On the 7th of April, 1885, Dr. Elder was united in marriage with Miss Ella C. Slater, a daughter of Mrs. G. B. Slater, of Brooklyn, New York, and they now have one son, Edmund W. The Doctor and his wife are members of St. Mathews Episcopal church, and in the best social circles of the city occupy an enviable position.

✓ **JOHN A. SCHNEIDER.** A brilliant example of a self-made American citizen and a grand exemplification of the progress that an ambitious foreigner can make in this country of unbounded opportunities, is shown in the case of Mr. Schneider, one of the leading German-American residents of Bloomington. His singular success is due to his own energy and the high ideal which his lofty and laudable ambition placed before him. Success in any walk of life is an indication of earnest endeavor and persevering effort,—characteristics that our subject possesses in an eminent degree.

Mr. Schneider was born in Deidesheim, Bavaria, Germany, May 29, 1845, but the ancestral home of the family was at Rupertsberg. His grandfather, Michael Schneider, was one of the most prominent and influential citizens of that place, and at the time of

his death was serving as burgomaster or mayor. Many of the cousins of our subject still hold prominent positions there. His father, Henry Schneider, owned large vineyards and was quite extensively engaged in the manufacture of wines and in distilling liquors, in which he also dealt. At the time of his removal to Deidesheim he had to pay one thousand dollars for citizenship, although that place was only a mile from his old home in Rupertsberg. He married Katherine Baer, who belonged to an old Lutheran family, and they became the parents of seven children, all of whom are still living, namely: Henry, who served for nine years in the German army and participated in the Franco-Prussian war; John A., our subject; Bernhardt, a resident of Bloomington; Katherine; Michael; Elizabeth; and Theresa. All reside in Germany with the exception of our subject and Bernhardt. The father died in 1893, the mother in 1863.

For seven years during his boyhood John A. Schneider attended the public schools of his native place, for a time was a student in a night school, and pursued his studies under private tutors at home. He learned the cooper's trade in a shop conducted in connection with his father's business. After coming to the United States he worked at that trade as a journeyman at different places, including three years at Peoria. In 1866, he located in Evansville, Indiana, where he learned the baker's trade and continued to work at the same there for two years. Later he went to Missouri and different parts of the west, and finally in 1874 came to Bloomington, where in Mr. Gerken's bakery he was employed as foreman until 1882, when he resigned his position and embarked in business on his own ac-



count at the corner of Grove and Center streets, doing all the work himself. His trade having steadily increased, he was obliged to seek more commodious quarters, and in 1886 he purchased a large brick block at the corner of Center and Oliver streets. He occupies the whole building, which is forty-four by ninety-nine feet, two stories in height, with a basement. This is fitted up with the latest improved machinery and ovens, making it a thoroughly modern plant. Besides his large retail trade, he now does one of the largest wholesale baking businesses in central Illinois, shipping his goods to Indiana points, Kankakee, Danville and Pekin, Illinois. He furnishes employment to sixteen men. Coming to the new world as he did without capital, he deserves great credit for the success that he has achieved in life, it being due entirely to his own industry, enterprise, perseverance and good management.

On the 2nd of February, 1870, at St. Charles, Missouri, Mr. Schneider was united in marriage with Miss Mary G. Danzebrink, a daughter of Bernhardt and Katherina (Grove) Danzebrink, natives of Germany and now residents of St. Charles. The father came to the United States during his boyhood, in 1812, and is a pensioner of the Mexican war and was also a soldier of the Civil war. Mr. and Mrs. Schneider have two daughters: Josie K. is now the wife of Richard E. Hurst and to them has been born a daughter, Leah, while by a former marriage she has a son, John W. Penner Hurst. Lillian, the second daughter of our subject, married Henry A. Ulbrich, of Bloomington, and has one son, Harry A., a bright boy of two years. Our subject and his wife have a pleasant home at the corner of Grove and West streets.

Although of foreign birth, America has no more loyal or patriotic citizen than Mr. Schneider, who, as a Republican, is prominently identified with local political affairs, and does all in his power to advance the interests of city, state and nation. For four years he most efficiently served as supervisor of Bloomington township, and while in that office gave his support to the measure of letting children remain in the orphans' home until eighteen, instead of turning them out at sixteen, and the bill was passed. He also moved to have convict labor in state institutions abandoned, and it was also carried before the board. At the re-organization of the city in 1897, fourteen aldermen were elected—one-half for two years and one-half for one year. He was among the number and in casting lots he drew the shorter term, serving during the year of 1897-8. He was chairman of the committee on streets and alleys and most ably respected the third ward. Socially, he is an honored member of Mozart Lodge, F. & A. M.; Uhland Lodge, I. O. O. F.; and Shabbonay Tribe, I. O. R. M., with which he has been connected sixteen years and has served as treasurer ten years of that time. He also belongs to National Union, Pythias Lodge, No. 161, K. P., of which he is a charter member and trustee, and a member of the Uniformed Rank No. 22, K. P. He has been chieftain of the League of Red Men, Pocahontas Tribe, and a member of the Turners Society.

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DANIEL J. OTTO, who is practically living a retired life on his fine farm in section 30, Normal township, is a splendid representative of that class of German-American citizens who have done so much to advance the material interests of their

adopted country. For many years he was one of the most active and enterprising farmers in the county, industrious as the day was long, but in the lapse of time he has accumulated sufficiently of this world's goods to enable him to lay aside business cares and take life easy. It is not his nature, however, to be idle, so he still does such work as he may feel inclined to do. He was born in Hessen, Germany, September 11, 1833, and there received his primary education in his native language. His father, John Otto, was a native of the same province, and by occupation was a farmer. He married Mrs. Margaret Brenneman, *née* Otto, who was a distant relative, and they became the parents of three children: Anna, who married Henry Eisenfeld, of Peru, Ill.; Daniel J., our subject; and Jacob, who died at the age of twenty-one years on the old home place in Pennsylvania. By her first husband, Samuel Brenneman, Mrs. Otto had three children: Mary, Samuel and Katie.

In 1845 John Otto came with his family to the United States and located in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, where he purchased what was known as soldier's lot, comprising two hundred acres of land, which was all in timber, and from which very little clearing had been done and on which no improvements had been made. With the energy characteristic of the race he went to work, cleared the land and in due time had a good farm. He remained on that farm during the remainder of his life, dying in 1857. His wife survived him but one year, when she, too, passed to her reward.

The subject of this sketch was but twelve years old when he accompanied his parents to the United States, and for about one year after his arrival he attended the public

schools of Somerset county, Pennsylvania, and acquired a fair knowledge of the English language. After that short time in the schools of his adopted country he commenced work with his father in clearing the farm of its heavy timber, and in the school of experience acquired the greater part of the knowledge now possessed. He remained with his father until twenty-one years old, when he left home and came to McLean county, Illinois. This was in the spring of 1855. For two years he worked by the month for various persons, and then rented a farm in Allin township on which he remained six years, in the meantime accumulating sufficient means to purchase one hundred and twenty acres in the same township. This he improved while still continuing to work his rented land. His first purchase was made in 1860, and this he later traded for one hundred and sixty acres, also in Allin township. After residing on this last farm for four years he sold it for fifty dollars an acre and in 1867 moved to Champaign county, where he purchased a farm of four hundred acres on which he remained for six years. He was not pleased, however, with that farm, and in 1875 traded it for a farm of two hundred and twenty-three acres in Normal and Dry Grove townships, McLean county, giving in addition four thousand dollars in cash. It was his judgment that the land in Normal township was far superior to that in Champaign county, and he has never felt any reason to change his mind in that regard.

On returning to McLean county, Mr. Otto located on the Normal farm and there remained twelve years, during which time he made several purchases of land as his means permitted. He first purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Dry Grove town-

ship, and a little later ninety acres in Normal township, then eighty acres more in Dry Grove township, adjoining his first purchase of ninety acres. He next bought eighty acres adjoining the last eighty, after which he bought eighty acres more in Normal township, adjoining his first ninety, paying for the same one hundred dollars per acre. His next purchase was of forty-three acres adjoining the other place, for which he paid one hundred and seventeen dollars per acre.

On the 27th of April, 1857, Mr. Otto married Miss Jacobina Otto, a native of Butler county, Ohio, and daughter of Daniel and Barbara Otto. Her father moved to McLean county at an early day and became one of the large land owners of the county. By this union ten children were born, four of whom died in infancy. Of those who reached mature years, John E. married Mary Bohrer, and they have had six children, four of whom are living, Gertrude B., Lillian, Hattie and Elsie. They reside in Dry Grove township. Samuel B. married Mary Basting, by whom he had three children, Mabel, Roy and Ralph. His second marriage was with Sarah Baumetz, and they have one child, Grace. They are living in Normal township. Albert married Minnie Basting, and they have four children, Clara, May, Pearl and Alvin. They reside in Dry Grove township. Eliza married Henry C. Lowrey, and with their two children, Joseph Otto and Lawrence, they live in Storey county, Iowa. George D. married Jennie Meyer, and they have three children, Harvey M., Blanche and Chester. They reside in Normal township. Charles E. married Gertrude Kirkpatrick, and they have one child, Cleta. Their home is in Normal township.

On the 30th of September, 1884, Mrs. Otto departed this life, and her remains were interred in the cemetery at Bloomington. She was a good woman, a kind and loving wife and mother, and had many friends to mourn her loss. October 6, 1886, Mr. Otto again married, taking as his wife Miss Mary Houston, a native of Monroe county, Indiana, and daughter of Alfred Houston, who is now living a retired life in Rantoul, Illinois. There are no children by this last union, but in January, 1890, Mr. and Mrs. Otto adopted the orphan son of a brother of Mrs. Otto, and the little one, Allen C. Houston, is now attending the district school.

Mr. Otto has always kept the best grade of stock, hogs, cattle and horses, and has always endeavored to feed all the grain he raised. For eighteen years he was engaged in the business of fattening cattle for the market, and in this line was unusually successful. In fact success has crowned all his efforts in life. On coming to this county he had a good chopping axe, which he wielded with a good strong arm, and from which it may almost be said that with it he hewed out a fortune, for it was his entire capital. He is now the owner of over eight hundred acres of as fine land as there is in McLean county, which is truly the garden spot of the state. All his land is under cultivation and well improved in every respect, having excellent farm houses and barns, with such outbuildings as are necessary in carrying on well regulated farms. On his farms he has put down over six thousand dollars worth of tiling, and made many other substantial improvements.

Politically, Mr. Otto is a Republican on national issues, but in local elections is de-



cidedly independent, voting for the best men regardless of the party names which they wear. He has never cared for office, but served one term as a member of the county board of supervisors from Dry Grove township, and was also assessor of that township for one term. For nine years he was trustee of schools in Dry Grove township, and for two years served in the same office in Normal township. He is a member of the Mennonite church, with which he has been connected since he was sixteen years old. His wife is a member of the Christian church. Both are held in the highest esteem, and they have many friends throughout the county, who esteem them for their worth's sake.

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CHARLES ROSS PARKE, M. D., is the oldest practicing physician of Bloomington, and one of the most eminent members of the profession in this section of the state. One of the most exacting of all the higher lines of occupation to which a man may lend his energies is that of the physician. A most scrupulous preliminary training is demanded and a nicety of judgment little understood by the laity. Then again the profession brings its devotees into almost constant association with the sadder side of life,—that of pain and suffering,—so that a mind capable of great self control and a heart responsive and sympathetic are essential attributes of him who would assay the healing art. Thus when professional success is attained in any instance it may be taken as certain that such measure of success has been thoroughly merited. Lacking in none of the attributes of the eminent medical practitioner, Dr. Parke has long occupied a leading place in the ranks of his

professional brethren, and his reputation extends far beyond the boundaries of this county.

A native of Parkesburg, Chester county, Pennsylvania, he was born on the 25th of June, 1823, and is a son of George Washington and Mary (Ross) Parke. The family is of Scotch-Irish extraction and was founded in America by the Doctor's great-grandfather, who left his home in the north of Ireland and emigrated to the new world, prior to the war of the Revolution. Taking up land, he made a good home and reared a family. His son William Parke, grandfather of our subject, was one of the heroes in the war for independence. He belonged to the "Flying Camp," and participated in a number of battles. After the establishment of the republic, he became one of the important factors in the public life, and in Pennsylvania served as a member of the state legislature, and was also a member of the committee of safety during the war.

George W. Parke was a native of Parkesburg, Pennsylvania, and after arriving at years of maturity engaged in farming, in milling and in the tanning business. He was recognized as one of the most progressive and enterprising men of the town of Parkesburg, which was built upon a part of the land originally purchased by our subject's great-grandfather and derived its name from the Parke family. A section of his farm is still in possession of his descendants. George W. Parke served as register of deeds at Westchester for some time, and during the war of 1812 carried arms in defence of his country's flag. Another member of the family who attained prominence in military circles was General John G. Parke, a cousin of the Doctor, who was retired from his command at West Point.





CHARLES ROSS PARKE, M. D.



George W. Parke was twice married, the mother of our subject being his second wife. She belonged to an honored family of Chester county, Pennsylvania, and by her marriage she became the mother of three children, but the Doctor is the only one now living. The parents both retained their residence in the Keystone state until death, and both had passed the eightieth milestone on life's journey when called to the home beyond. They were members of the Presbyterian church, and commanded the respect of all who knew them.

Dr. Parke acquired his preliminary education in the common schools near his home, later pursued his studies at Westchester, Pennsylvania, and then attended Science Hill, a private school, conducted by Joshua Hoopes, a Quaker educator. He began preparation for his profession as a student in the office of Dr. Wilmer Worthington, and subsequently took a three years' course in the University of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia, where he was graduated in the class of 1847. For a year thereafter he practiced in Delaware county, Pennsylvania, and in the fall of 1848 came to Illinois, locating at Como, on the Rock river, in Whiteside county. Attracted by the discovery of gold in California, however, he crossed the plains in the spring of 1849, going as surgeon to the Como Company. He now belongs to the society known as "The '49s of Chicago." The party journeyed to Sacramento and thence proceeded up Feather river, fording that stream at Marysville, when only one adobe house marked the site of the town. Dr. Parke spent the winter among the mines, and in the spring returned to Marysville for groceries. In the meantime quite a village had sprung up, and a steamboat lay at the

wharf, while in other parts of the state were little towns, indicating the rapid development of the region. In the fall of 1850 Dr. Parke went to Sacramento, where he engaged in the practice of medicine for a few months. Starting for home, he took passage at San Francisco on a schooner bound for Panama, but in a storm they were obliged to seek harbor off Cape St. Lucas, and in another gale were driven by the winds to the vicinity of the Sandwich Islands. Eventually they sailed eastward until they reached the coast of Central America, where the passengers hired teams to convey them by way of Lake Nicaragua to Graytown or San Juan, where the canal is now being constructed. Arriving too late to take the steamer, they went on an English vessel to Chagres, and thence to New Orleans.

The Doctor then came to the north and after practicing his profession near Peoria, Illinois, for a year, came to Bloomington in 1852. He found here a small village of twenty-five hundred people, and has witnessed its splendid growth and development into a populous and enterprising city. He continued in practice here until the 1st of August, 1855, when, through the instrumentality of the Russian minister, he received an appointment to a position as surgeon in the regular army of the czar, and went to the Crimea, where he served in the hospital in the capital city until peace was declared. He was then sent to the holy city of Kiev, and later traveled through Prussia, spending some time in Berlin. Subsequently he went to France and Denmark, then over the mountains to Stockholm, Sweden, back to Prussia, thence to Berlin, to Paris and to Brussels, London, and Southampton, sailing from the latter

place for his native land, where he arrived on Thanksgiving day of 1857. Thus, through extensive travel on the continent, he gained a comprehensive and accurate knowledge of European countries, their peoples and the manners and customs of the old world,—a knowledge that has since enriched his conversation with anecdote and reminiscence.

Dr. Parke spent the winter after his return with his father, and in the spring of 1858 again came to Bloomington, where he resumed the general practice of medicine. He was married on the 3d of October, 1866, to Mrs. Lucy Keith, of this city, a daughter of Edmund Didlake, formerly of Winchester, Kentucky. They lost their only child, and on account of the poor health of his wife, Dr. Parke removed to a plantation in the south, where they remained until Mrs. Parke was fully restored, returning in 1870. The Doctor has been an active practitioner in Bloomington, and now has a large office practice. He is also chief of the medical staff of St. Joseph's Hospital and surgeon of that institution, which he aided the Sisters in founding, making it one of the most perfectly equipped hospitals in central Illinois. He has a very large surgical practice and has successfully performed many difficult and important operations. His success in this branch of the profession is due to his wonderfully minute and accurate acquaintance with anatomy, combined with exquisite power of diagnosis, a cool head, steady muscles and great mechanical genius. He has ever been a close student of his profession, and his comprehensive knowledge of the principles of the medical science renders him an eminent follower of this important calling.

Dr. Parke is a valued member of the McLean County Medical Society, of which

he has served as president; of the State Medical Association, and of the American Medical Association, and has twice served as a member of the board of pension examiners by appointment of President Cleveland. Dr. Parke was the first president of the George Rogers Clarke Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, in Bloomington. He has served for several years as president of the Library Association of Bloomington, and is an advocate of all measures and movements which tend to advance the intellectual, material, social and moral welfare of the city. He has enjoyed honors and success in his professional career, but in private life has gained that warm personal regard which arises from true nobility of character, deference for the opinions of others, kindness and geniality.

**SAMUEL R. WHITE.** The career of Samuel R. White is so closely interwoven with the progress and development of Bloomington that the history of the city would be incomplete without the record of his life. To say of him that he has risen unaided from comparative obscurity to rank among the most successful men of this section of Illinois, is a statement that seems trite to those familiar with his life, yet it is but just to say in a history that will descend to future generations that his business record has been one that any man would be proud to possess. Beginning with no capital save determined purpose and laudable ambition, he has worked his way steadily upward step by step until he is now occupying a position of prominence and trust in the industrial world reached by very few men. Through his entire business career he has been looked upon as a model of integrity and honor, never making an engage-



ment that he has not fulfilled, and standing to-day as an example of what determination and force, combined with the highest degree of business integrity, can accomplish for a man of natural ability and strength of character.

A native of the neighboring state of Indiana, Mr. White was born in Huntington, December 27, 1846, and is a son of James and Lucy (Phelps) White. The father was born in North Carolina, and when about four years old lost his father. He spent his youth in the place of his nativity, and when about twenty-five years of age removed to Indiana. In his early manhood he engaged in merchandising in Ohio, but on account of ill health removed to a farm, where he carried on agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred in January, 1853, when Samuel R. White was a little lad of only four summers. He left a widow and four children who grew to mature years, namely: Mary A., now Mrs. Foulke, of Whiting, Kansas; Mrs. Laura A. Reed, of Bloomington; James and Samuel R. After the death of her first husband Mrs. White became the wife of John Reed, of Wabash, Indiana, whence they removed to Bloomington in 1884. Mrs. Reed died about 1888, but Mr. Reed is still living in this city at the advanced age of ninety years. In early life she was a member of the Presbyterian church, but afterward held membership in the Christian church.

In the district schools Samuel R. White acquired his education, pursuing his studies until seventeen years of age, through the winter season. In the summer months he assisted in the labors of field and meadow and when nineteen years of age he left the farm in order to serve an apprenticeship to the carpenter's trade in Wabash county,

Indiana. In 1868 he came to Illinois, working as a journeyman in various parts of the state, including the towns of Winona and Ottawa. In 1869 he returned to Huntington, where he began contracting on his own account on a small scale, meeting with success in the undertaking. He was married there, and in the spring of 1870 removed with his bride to Bloomington. It was his intention to locate elsewhere, but while seeking a favorable opening he began working at his trade in this city, and in 1872 entered upon an independent business career as a contractor and builder. He erected a number of school-houses, dwellings and barns throughout the county, and as he demonstrated his ability in the line of his chosen vocation his patronage constantly increased and the nature of his work partook of a more important character. His force of workmen was likewise enlarged, and his enterprise and capable management was crowned with a fair degree of success. In 1874 he erected the Stevenson hardware store in Front street; in 1875 the First Ward school building; and various residences in the city also indicate his handiwork. He was thus engaged in contracting until 1879, when he withdrew from that business, having in the meantime turned his attention to other lines, which he believed would prove more profitable. In 1873 he established a lumber and coal yard which he also conducted until 1878.

In that year he founded what has become one of the leading industrial concerns of the city. He began the manufacture of house furniture in an old mill, which was operated by rented power and which stood on the site of his present commodious and substantial plant. He utilized his carpenter shop for a sales and store room, and acted

as his own traveling salesman, going upon the road to sell his goods. Prosperity attended the new venture and his trade, constantly increasing in volume and importance, had in 1883 reached such dimensions that he was enabled to erect a planing mill and factory, located at No. 304 Douglass street. As the years passed great changes were made in the style of furniture and extensive corporations were monopolizing the trade, which caused him to abandon the manufacture of furniture and begin the construction of sash, doors and blinds. This enterprise has continued one of the leading industrial concerns of the city, and has proven a very profitable investment. In 1884, a fire destroyed the plant, which was a three-story frame building, but with characteristic energy he made preparation for the immediate continuance of his business by purchasing the old mill in which he began operations and erecting on the site the main part of his present plant, a three-story brick structure, sixty by sixty feet, supplied with capacious boilers and engines and the latest improved machinery for carrying on the work. Later he purchased the remainder of the half block on which the plant was located and removing a dwelling and livery barn built an addition to his factory in order to meet the demands of his constantly increasing patronage. The greater part of the ground is now covered with the building, a three-story brick structure, one hundred and fifteen by one hundred and eighty feet, providing ample accommodation for carrying on the business. The plant is equipped throughout with the most modern and highly improved machinery, and his trade has more than doubled since the building was enlarged. He also manufactures store furniture in addition to lumber, sash, doors and blinds,

and the output of the factory is very large. In the conduct of the enterprise he has been very successful, owing to his keen discrimination, his sound judgment, enterprise, and executive ability. Only a small insurance covered the plant that was first destroyed by fire, and in 1889 he again suffered loss through the fiery element, but with undaunted courage he continued his labors and triumphed over the difficulties which he had met.

Mr. White is a man of resourceful business ability, and his efforts have been by no means confined to one line. He has been the promoter of many of the leading business concerns of the city, and has thereby not only promoted his individual prosperity but has largely advanced the welfare of the city. On the site of his first planing mill he erected four flat buildings which were supplied with all the conveniences of that time. While engaged in contracting he was appointed an expert appraiser for an insurance company, and thus formed an extensive acquaintance which enabled him to secure many large contracts in various parts of the country, and furnish employment to from two hundred to two hundred and fifty men. He erected buildings for the American Sugar Refining Company, the Realty Cooperage Company, the Pullman Palace Car Company, the Bradner Smith Paper Company's Mill, and repaired the Hotel Peoria and the Dunlap House. In the line of his insurance business, he was called as an expert adjuster from New Orleans to Manitoba and from Baltimore to Denver, settling losses for various companies. His tact and discrimination combined with marked executive ability, made him very successful in that line of work, and his labors were most satisfactory to the

companies he represented. Mr. White is now the representative of many industrial and manufacturing concerns, whose prosperity is largely attributable to his wise counsel in the management of their affairs. In 1894 he was one of the organizers of the Bloomington Store Fixture Company, which succeeded to the business of H. A. Miner and was capitalized for twenty thousand dollars, its officers being Mr. White, president, and Mr. Rodman, general manager. They manufacture store and office furniture, employ forty workmen, and ship their goods into almost every state of the Union. In 1894 our subject erected what is known as the White Block, a five-story and basement brick structure, seventy-six by one hundred and twelve feet, to which an addition, fifty by eighty feet, and three stories in height, has been made. This building is supplied with power from the planing mill across the street, by rope transmission. The store fixtures occupy more than three floors and the basement in this large building. Mr. White is also interested in the Corn Belt Printing Company, of which he is president, and is a stockholder in the Novelty Manufacturing Company, the partners being C. F. Shunkle and Mr. White. In this enterprise employment is furnished from fifteen to eighteen men. Mr. White is likewise interested in the B. S. Constant Company, which manufactures machinery for grain elevators, is a stockholder in the A. N. Stevens Company, a large grocery firm in the same block. The various enterprises with which he is connected furnish employment to about two hundred and fifty men, and thus materially aid in the progress and advancement of the city, for the general welfare is dependent entirely upon commercial activity.

Bloomington is also indebted to him for improvements which add to her beauty. He has laid out one of the most attractive additions to the city, called "White's Place." It comprises thirty acres of land, and upon this property he placed improvements to the value of thirteen thousand dollars, in the year 1898. In the center of the tract is a broad street, seventy feet wide. This is divided into three equal sections, the center being transformed into a park adorned with trees, grass, flowers and a fountain. On each side asphalt paving extends for sixteen feet. The lots are sixty feet wide and a building line insures the beauty that arises from uniformity. The sewer, water and gas connections have all been made through the alleys in the rear, and heavy teams are also to deliver their goods through that way, so that the boulevard is used only for pleasure driving. All of the buildings will be heated by steam, and White's Place will eventually become one of the most beautiful districts of the city. His own pleasant home is located on Mulberry street, where he has resided for thirteen years.

On the 21st of September, 1869, Mr. White was united in marriage to Miss Minerva E. Moore, daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth Moore, who resided in Huntington county, Indiana, six miles from the city of that name. To Mr. and Mrs. White have been born six children who are yet living: Louis A., who married Lillian Wood, of Chicago, and is engaged in business in Bloomington; Ora E., who is now interested in the management of the S. R. White Manufacturing Company, and married Miss Minnie Merrideth, by whom he has one child, Samuel R., Jr.; Elizabeth, at home; Alma, wife of S. M. McEwan, chief train dispatcher of the Chicago, Burlington &



Quincy Railroad, at St. Joseph, Missouri; Samuel Warren, who is manager of the Star Novelty Manufacturing Company; and Dalmar, at home. The parents are members of the First Methodist Episcopal church, in which Mr. White is serving as trustee. He also occupies a similar position in connection with the Woman's Industrial Home, and is a liberal contributor to both. He has always been willing to devote his wealth and energies to any feasible undertaking that would increase the prosperity of the city and add to the comfort of its inhabitants. His life has been a success. He has accumulated a competency and has used only such means as will bear the closest scrutiny. He has for thirty years been an active factor in advancing the city of Bloomington, and during that entire time has so conducted all of his affairs as to command the esteem, confidence and respect of all classes. Personally he is sociable, ever willing to accord to any one the courtesy of an interview, and is entirely free from ostentation or display. His actions during his life have been such as to accord him recognition among the representative men of this great state, and although his career has not been filled with thrilling incidents, probably no biography in this volume can serve as a better illustration to young men of the power of honesty and integrity in insuring business.

**P**HILIP A. KARR is the well-known superintendent of the county poor farm of McLean county, which position he has held since March, 1893, and which he has filled in a most commendable and satisfactory manner. A native of Indiana, he was born November 1, 1850, twenty-four miles

northeast of Indianapolis, and can trace his ancestry back to 1640. The Karr family is of Scotch origin. The paternal great-great-grandfather of our subject was Captain John Karr, who served with distinction as an officer in a New Jersey regiment during the Revolutionary war, and later participated in the war of 1812. He was one of the early members of the Masonic order in this country, and the Masonic apron which he carried through both wars is now one of the most cherished possessions of our subject. Later in life he came west and made his home with his children in McLean county, dying at the home of his son-in-law, Hiram Buck, near Leroy, in 1840. He is one of the few Revolutionary soldiers buried here. Walter Karr, the great-grandfather of our subject, was born near Hackettstown, New Jersey, and at an early day removed to Ohio, where his death occurred. The grandfather, Philip Karr, owned and operated a farm near that of General William Henry Harrison, in Ohio. He purchased the place at an early day and continued to make his home there until his removal to Indiana, where he also opened up and improved a farm. He died in the latter state about 1849 or 1850. He was a well-known and prominent business man, and at one time engaged in the freighting business from Cincinnati to Indianapolis with a six-horse team. He married a Miss Granger.

Arthur C. Karr, our subject's father, was born in Hamilton county, Ohio, December 30, 1827, upon the farm adjoining that of General Harrison, but was reared in Indiana, remaining under the parental roof until he attained his majority. At that time he was united in marriage with Miss Sarah J. Guinn, a native of West Vir-



ginia, and to them were born nine children, of whom eight are still living, our subject being the eldest. After his marriage, the father lived upon a farm in Indiana from 1849 until 1855, when he removed to Warren county, Iowa, locating fifteen miles southeast of Des Moines, where the family lived in true pioneer style. They reached their destination July 4, 1855, but as houses were scarce it was two months before they secured a home, which was a small log house with no floor, no nails being used in its construction. Here the father and mother, with their three children, besides two widows with three children each, lived in one room, at the end of which was a huge fire place, the back logs for which were drawn into the room by a horse. Although the family encountered all the hardships of pioneer life, our subject still numbers it among the most pleasant and happy winters he ever spent. Game was plentiful, hunting was good and the Indians had left for their homes farther west. The father was first engaged in the sawmill business in Iowa, and at that he prospered. Later he engaged in merchandising, but failed in business during the panic of 1857. That year he was also taken ill and was confined to his bed for three years, but finally recovered, though his friends did not believe it possible at the time. Being a natural mechanic, he next worked at the wagonmaker's trade, and was considered one of the best in Dewitt county, Illinois, where he moved September 7, 1864. He manufactured everything needed in his business, and successfully worked at his trade until cheap factory-made vehicles replaced the better ones made by hand. He was quite prominent in Wapella and vicinity, but never aspired

to office. He died March 13, 1899, honored and respected by all who knew him. In 1866 he united with the Christian church, though he had been a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church for twenty years previous. His widow is still living at the age of seventy-two years and is still quite bright and active.

Philip A. Karr, our subject, began his education in a primitive log school-house near Des Moines, with its greased paper window and rude furniture, and though his educational advantages were limited, he has by reading and observation become a well-informed man, having a broad and practical knowledge of men and affairs that could not be derived from books. During his father's long illness he began to work in the fields at the age of nine years, cultivating a small patch of ground in order to assist in the support of the family. On New Year's day of 1864, when it was thirty-six degrees below zero, he went three miles and cut a load of wood, which he brought home, being at that time only thirteen years of age. Since the age of ten he has been entirely dependent upon his own resources, receiving no financial aid from his father, and until twenty-two he practically supported the family, while at that time he assumed an indebtedness of three hundred and fifty dollars incurred for family expenses, and also gave his father a good home during the last twelve years of his life.

On the 9th of October, 1872, Mr. Karr married Miss Willie A., daughter of John Karr, who was a resident of De Witt county, Illinois, and to them have been born seven children, namely: Clara M., who died December 19, 1894, at the age of twenty years; Homer G., employed as night watchman at county farm; Fred T., who is

engaged in farming in Old Town township; Albert, who died at the age of thirteen months; Roy, at home; Eunice, who died in infancy; and Daisy Dotty Dimple, at home.

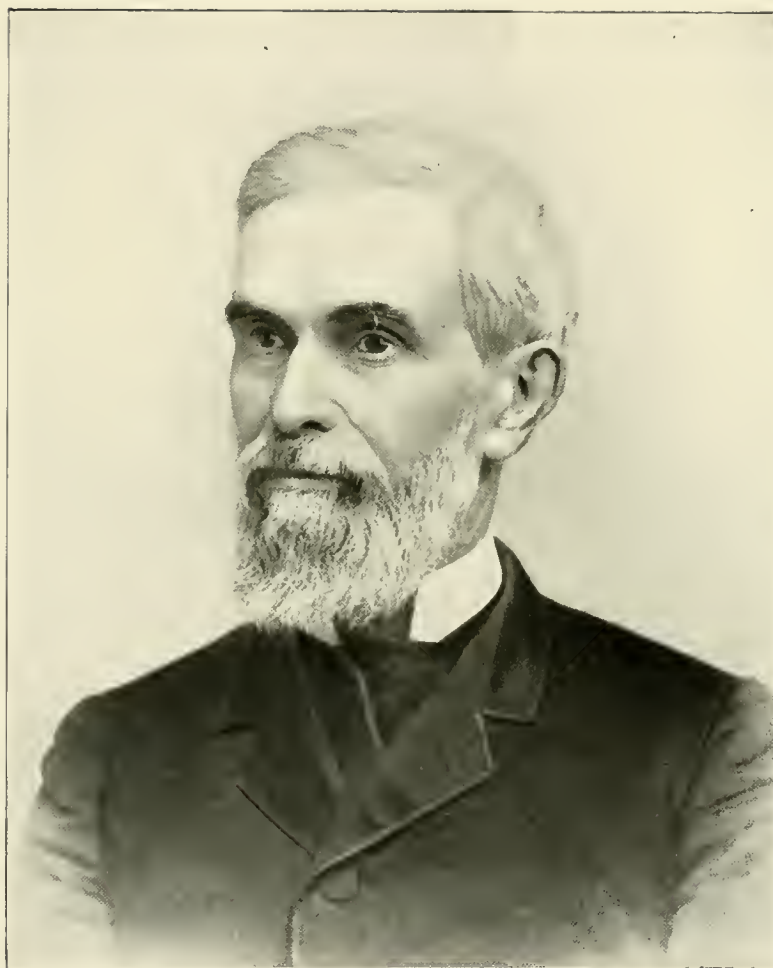
For four or five years after his marriage Mr. Karr engaged in farming upon rented land in De Witt county, and then operated a thresher and corn sheller for about the same length of time. In this way he secured his start in life, but felt the effects of the hard times of 1876. In 1881 he again turned his attention to farming, and two years later embarked in the brick and tile business, buying the plant of a bankrupt company two miles from Wapella, and from a small beginning he soon built up an excellent trade. During the second year a stock company was formed, and he served as director and manager until July 4, 1883, when he retired from the corporation on account of his views on the temperance question. He then organized another stock company, of which he was secretary, and commenced operating a new plant at Funk's Grove, where he did a successful business, furnishing employment to from fifteen to twenty-five men. He manufactured most of the tile used in this locality, and also shipped considerable. In connection with that business he also conducted a sawmill, and success crowned his well-directed efforts. He continued his residence at Funk's Grove when he took possession of his present office in March, 1893. By the county board of supervisors, he was appointed superintendent of the poor farm in 1892, there being six in competition against him. At the end of five years, or in 1898 he was re-appointed having two opponents. This farm consists of three hundred acres, and as regards buildings and grounds is considered the best county farm

in central Illinois. It now has from one hundred and forty to one hundred and fifty inmates, though when Mr. Karr took charge they numbered but ninety-six. He has proved a most efficient and popular superintendent, the duties of the position having never been more faithfully or satisfactorily performed. Since casting his first presidential vote for General U. S. Grant, in 1872, he has been a staunch supporter of the Republican party and his duties of citizenship have always been most conscientiously discharged. He has served as school director and road commissioner, and in all the relations of life has been found true to every trust reposed in him. Socially, he is a member of Shirley Lodge, F. & A. M., and the Knights of Pythias, No. 212, at McLean, in which he has filled the office of master of exchequer. Religiously, both he and his wife are earnest members of the Christian church.

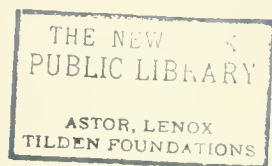
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EDWIN C. HEWETT, A. M., LL. D., for many years president of the Illinois State Normal University and now associate editor of the *School and Home Education*, a periodical published in Bloomington in the interest of education, was born in Worcester county, Massachusetts, November 1, 1828, and is the son of Timothy and Lavina (Leonard) Hewett, both of whom were also natives of Massachusetts. Timothy Hewett was an experienced and skilled mechanic, and also engaged in farming to a limited extent. He is still living, a well preserved man of ninety-three years. His good wife passed to her reward some years ago. They were the parents of five children, two of whom are now living.

Dr. Hewett, who was first in order of



EDWIN C. HEWETT.





birth in the family, was reared in his native place, and in the common schools received his primary education. After passing through the Academy, he attended the Bridgewater State Normal School, then in charge of Nicholas Stillinghast, its first principal. Previous to his entering the Normal, he taught school for two terms. After graduating at the Normal school, he entered, as assistant, the high school at Pittsfield, Massachusetts, where he remained one year, after which he was called back to Bridgewater to become an assistant at the Normal, a position which he held for nearly four years. At the expiration of that time he took charge of the Thomas Grammar School, in Wooster, and remained there two years.

From Worcester, Prof. Hewett was called to Normal, Illinois, in 1858, the second year of the establishment of the State Normal School at that place. In that institution he held the position of Professor of History and Geography until January, 1876, when he was elected president of the institution, to succeed Dr. Richard Edwards, where he remained as its efficient head until 1890, when he resigned. The State Normal University constantly grew in its influence and plan of education under his management, and it is safe to say that no other president or professor connected with the State Normal School has had more to do with shaping and moulding its plan and developing its power for usefulness and influence along true educational lines than Dr. Hewett. He was with it almost from its inception, and his thirty-two years of faithful devotion could not help but leave its impress upon its working force.

Dr. Hewett received his degree of A. M. from the (old) University of Chicago in 1863, and the degree of LL. D. was con-

ferred on him by Shurtleff College about 1878. Both honors were worthily bestowed. The Doctor has been an untiring worker in educational circles, and his time has not been confined alone to teaching, but he has written an excellent work on Pedagogy, and another on Psychology, both of which are published by the American Book Company. He is also the author of a series of arithmetics, published by Rand, McNally & Co., of Chicago, and all of his books are in practical use to-day. As instructor in Teachers' Institutes, he has done a great deal of valuable work, as well as lecturing on educational topics and writing for educational and other publications. As an educator his ability is unquestioned, and he has been honored by his associates in educational work in various ways. For a time he served as president of the State Teachers' Association of Illinois, and for many years he has been an active worker in the National Educational Association, of which he was treasurer for five years. Previous to his removal to Normal, he was secretary of the Teachers' Association of Plymouth and Wooster counties, Massachusetts, and also held other positions of minor importance.

In August, 1857, Dr. Hewett was joined in marriage with Miss Angeline N. Benton, a native of Franklin county, Massachusetts, where she was born in 1831, and daughter of Horace and Anna (Case) Benton, who removed to Lee county, Illinois, in 1854. By this union two children were born—Mrs. R. R. Reeder, born in 1860, and now residing in Chicopee Falls, Massachusetts, and Paul, born in 1870, who died in infancy. Mrs. Hewett, who was a most estimable wife and loving mother, departed this life November 21, 1895. For his second

wife, Dr. Hewett married Mrs. Helen E. Paisley, *née* Clute, of Normal, their wedding ceremony being solemnized in this city, August 31, 1898.

Dr. Hewett has been a member of the Baptist church for many years, and by that body was licensed to preach the gospel. While the greater part of his life has been given to the cause of education, he has yet occupied the pulpit to some extent, and his sermons are of a high order of merit, such as one would naturally expect from one of his learning and experience. Politically, he has always been a staunch Republican.

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**WILLIAM HART PATTERSON.** In past ages the history of a country was the record of wars and conquests; to-day it is the record of commercial activity, and those whose names are foremost in its annals are the leaders in business circles. The conquests now made are those of mind over matter, not of man over man, and the victor is he who can successfully establish, control and operate extensive business interests.

Mr. Patterson is unquestionably one of the strongest and most influential men whose lives have become an essential part of the history of Bloomington and McLean county. He was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, May 24, 1856, and is a representative of one of the wealthiest and most distinguished families of that state, being a son of John J. and Lucretia E. (Moore) Patterson. The founder of the Patterson family in this country was born in Ireland of Scotch ancestry and came to America in 1702, locating in Juniata Valley, Pennsylvania. At one time they owned

all of that valley. The great-grandfather of our subject was John Patterson, a soldier of the Revolutionary war, and the grandfather was William Patterson, for whom our subject was named. At the time of his death, the latter was one of the wealthiest men in Pennsylvania. The maternal grandfather, Silas Moore, was a prominent citizen of Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania, and owned a stage line from Philadelphia to Pittsburg before the time of railroads. He died in 1844. John J. Patterson, father of our subject, was born in Waterloo, Juniata county, Pennsylvania, August 8, 1830, and has always been quite prominent in business and political circles of that state, owning an interest in several railroads and serving as United States senator.

William H. Patterson is the oldest in a family of seven children, and in the public schools of his native city he began his education. Later he attended the Pennsylvania Military Academy at Chester, Pennsylvania, and then entered Princeton College as a member of the class of 1877. After leaving college he went to Washington, D. C., his father being at that time a member of the United States senate, and there he read law with the firm of Shellabarger & Wilson, both ex-members of congress and prominent lawyers. He also attended the Columbia Law School, from which he was graduated with the degree of LL. B., in 1879, and was admitted to the bar in June of that year.

The following August, Mr. Patterson was elected secretary of the People's Passenger Railway of Baltimore, Maryland, and remained with that company as secretary and general manager until they sold out, when he went to New Mexico on account of his health. While in New Mexico he

was appointed assistant surveyor-general and held that position for one year, his home being in Santa Fe. In the fall of 1886, he returned to Washington, D. C., and as general superintendent and general manager was connected with the Eckington & Soldiers' Home Street Railway, one of the first electric roads built, remaining there until March, 1890. He was also one of the directors of the People's Road in Baltimore. On the 1st of April, 1890, he located in Bloomington and at once became interested in the Bloomington City Railway, as its general manager and president, until June, 1898. He changed the road from a mule line to the electric system, laid five miles of track, and made many other improvements, insuring quicker and better service. He was also president and part owner of the Lincoln Street Railway Company for two years; was connected with and for a time director of the Peoria & Pekin Electric Railway. He has been president of the Illinois Street Railway Association since January, 1898, when it was formed, and was re-elected to the office in June. He organized the association and takes an active interest in it. He was also one of the organizers of the Corn Belt Bank, but refused to become one of its directors. He is a member of the Bloomington Club, and was one of the directors of the Racing Association, of which he was also one of the organizers, being quite a lover of the noble steed.

On the 13th of January, 1881, Mr. Patterson was united in marriage with Miss Georgia Evans, of Washington, D. C., a daughter of A. H. Evans, and they now have two sons, William H., Jr., and Alexander Evans. Mrs. Patterson and the older son are members of the Episcopal church,

which our subject also attends and to which he contributes liberally. As a Republican he has always taken an active part in politics and has served as a delegate to state conventions. He is a public spirited, enterprising citizen, always willing to give his support to any object which he believes calculated to prove of public benefit, and has rendered Bloomington efficient service as park commissioner, being first appointed to that office in 1895 and re-appointed in 1897. During his term twelve acres were added to Miller park, the lake was constructed, the zoo buildings were erected, animals bought, a boat house was also built and boats purchased. All of these improvements and many others were made in that park, and the other parks were also beautified and extensively improved. Mr. Patterson gave considerable attention to the work, and the city now has as fine a system of parks as any place of its size in the state.

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LOIS E. LING. No foreign element has become a more important part of our American citizenship than that furnished by Sweden. The emigrants from that land have brought with them to the new world the stability, enterprise and perseverance characteristic of their people and have fused these qualities with the progressiveness and indomitable spirit of the west. We find a worthy representative of this class in Mr. Ling, the present alderman of the seventh ward of Bloomington and a well-known grocer of that city.

Mr. Ling was born in Ockelbo, Gefle, Sweden, November 4, 1851, and is a son of John Peterson, a farmer, who spent his entire life in that country. He received a good practical education in the public



schools, and while pursuing his studies in the higher schools of his native villages, the letters were changed from the German to the English alphabet, so that he became familiar with both, but his knowledge of the English language has all been acquired during his residence here by extensive reading and study. He continued to aid in the work of the home farm until 1870, when at the age of eighteen years, he sailed for the United States, hoping to benefit his financial condition, and his dreams of the future have been more than realized, for he now occupies a very prominent place in business circles and public affairs in Bloomington.

Locating first in Kewanee, Illinois, Mr. Ling found work with the railroad company, and after coming to Bloomington in 1872, worked for a time in the railroad shops here and later in the mines for two years. As a miner he received from five to six dollars per day, and he thus secured a start in life. For some time he was a member of the city police force, being well fitted for that position by early training in Sweden, where he had been a member of a military club with old military men to drill them. It was while a member of that organization that he took the name of Ling, it being customary to give military men shorter names, which the law gave them the right to adopt. He was also a member of what was practically a sharpshooters club, in which he stood high, having practiced shooting from the age of ten years. Mr. Ling was a patrolman in Bloomington for four years or until the administration changed, he being a Republican in politics. He obtained a position as clerk in the clothing store of Mr. Isaac L. Funk and there he gained his first knowledge of selling goods, which has been of much practical benefit to him in later

years. For four years he remained with that gentleman and was then with his brother for two and a half years, during which time he erected a one-story brick building at 405 South Allen street, owing one hundred and fifteen and a half feet there and one hundred and four feet on West Water street. On the completion of his building he put in a stock of groceries and embarked in business on his own account January 8, 1890. He has since built an adjoining store room and made them both two stories in height. One he uses for his stock of groceries and the other for a meat market, and he now gives employment to six people, having the best grocery trade in that part of the city. He has also built a lovely home at the corner upon the property already mentioned.

On the 15th of March, 1873, Mr. Ling was united in marriage with Miss Martha Soderblom, also of Swedish birth, and they now have two children: John Albert, who assists his father in the meat market; and Emma C., at home. The family hold membership in the Swedish Lutheran church and are held in high esteem by a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

Since becoming an American citizen, Mr. Ling has affiliated with the Republican party, has taken an active part in local politics and has several times been a member of the executive committee in his ward. At the time of the re-organization of the city in 1897, he was elected alderman for the seventh ward for a term of two years, and is now chairman of the committee on streets and highways and a member of the committees on license and claims. The position of alderman was really forced upon him as it was his desire to give his entire attention to his growing business interests, but being elected through no effort of his own, he is now giv-



ing it his special attention and is proving a most efficient and popular official. Being quite an athlete in his younger days, Mr. Ling has developed a fine physique, is six feet in height and well proportioned. As a boy he was never subject to fear like most lads of his age. Socially, he is a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge, No. 400.

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**G**EORGE W. BROWN, the well-known superintendent and general manager of the Bloomington Stove Company, was born in Providence, Rhode Island, July 17, 1855, and is a son of George and Ella (Curren) Brown, the former a native of Gloucestershire, England, the latter of Belfast, Ireland. When a young man the father crossed the Atlantic and took up his residence in Providence, Rhode Island, where he worked at the blacksmith's trade until his death, which occurred in January, 1856. Both parents held membership in the Episcopal church, and were highly respected by all who knew them.

Our subject commenced his education in the schools of Providence, but after the death of the father he accompanied his mother on her removal to Atlanta, Illinois, and in the winter of 1866-7 came to Bloomington, where he attended the public schools for a time. On starting out in life for himself he entered the molding department of the Bloomington Stove Company's works as an apprentice, and later worked as a molder in that foundry until August 11, 1898, when he was appointed to the responsible position of superintendent and general manager, which he is now so creditably and acceptably filling, having about thirty men under him. This is one of the largest stove works in central Illinois, and his long con-

nection with it plainly indicates his skill and ability in his chosen calling, and the faithful discharge of the duties devolving upon him.

Mr. Brown was united in marriage with Miss Jennie Winset, of Williamsport, Indiana, who died June 13, 1898, leaving five children, namely: Ellen, Annie, Gilbert W., George Benjamin and William J. Socially, Mr. Brown is an honored member of Remembrance Lodge, I. O. O. F., and the Modern Woodmen of America, and religiously is a member of the Episcopal church, with which he has been officially connected. He is a progressive and public-spirited citizen who gives his support to all enterprises for the public good, and he has a host of warm friends in his adopted city.

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**O**LIVER W. DUNLAP. Sound judgment combined with fine ability in mechanical lines has enabled the subject of this biography, a well-known resident of Bloomington, to attain a substantial success in life and his history is of especial interest. Although comparatively a young man, he has already attained a prominent place in business circles and is now treasurer of the Bloomington Pressed Brick Company.

Mr. Dunlap was born in Bloomington June 17, 1866, and is a son of Eleazer Dunlap, who was born in Urbana, Champaign county, Ohio, October 21, 1826, and losing his father during his infancy, he was reared by a Mr. Gregg, of Clinton county, Indiana. During his early life the father of our subject engaged in steamboating from Cincinnati to New Orleans, and subsequently, in an official position, was connected with a ferry at Cincinnati. There he married Miss Lucinda Clark, of Dayton, Ken-

tucky, a native of Ohio and a daughter of Josiah Clark, at that time a resident of Dayton, Kentucky. About 1860 Mr. and Mrs. Dunlap removed to North Vernon, Indiana, and in 1865 came to Bloomington, where he was at first engaged in farming and in the wood business in the southern part of the city, remaining there until 1881. During the following five years he conducted a grocery store at No. 106 South East street, and in 1888 embarked in the feed business at No. 301 East Front street, carrying on operations there for three years. In connection with our subject, he formed the Bloomington Pressed Brick Company in 1892, and since its incorporation he has served as a director and vice-president. For sixteen years he was an efficient member of the school board, representing the district in which he lived in the southern part of the city. Socially, he has affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows for half a century, being at the present time a member of Remembrance Lodge, and both he and his wife are faithful members of the Baptist church. In the family are three children: Emily, Libbie and Oliver W.

After attending the public schools of his native city for some time, Oliver W. Dunlap took a commercial course, and began his business career in a brick yard, where he learned the trade of brick making. At the age of nineteen, he formed a partnership with a Mr. Cannon, under the firm name of Dunlap & Cannon, and engaged in the manufacture of brick at the old established yard of Heafer & McGregor, making the common and hand-made paving brick for six years. They met with well-deserved success, their business steadily increasing from the beginning until the partnership was dissolved in 1892. With his father,

Mr. Dunlap had experimented with the clay at their present location, and finding it suitable for their purpose, they put in operation press brick works in 1892, their plant being equipped with modern machinery for that purpose. They were able to turn out a fine quality of pressed brick, and in December, 1893, a company was incorporated under the style of the Bloomington Pressed Brick Company, with E. Dunlap as president, Oliver W. Dunlap as treasurer, and J. M. Elder as secretary. The capital stock was at first fifteen thousand dollars, and the output after a year or two was two million, five hundred thousand brick per annum, the trade being largely local. In March, 1896, the capital stock was increased to twenty-five thousand dollars, and paving brick machinery was added to the plant. They also have steam dryers and down draft kilns and other modern improvements for brick making. The present capacity of the plant is five million brick annually, and their paving brick has been mostly sold in Bloomington. It is one of the largest plants of the kind in central Illinois; employment is furnished to from thirty to thirty-five hands all the year round, and as superintendent our subject has had charge of the same from the start. He has invented a machine which they use in their own business and which is now sold from coast to coast, having been patented both in this country and in England. It is a clay screen, which they manufacture quite extensively, and is in itself an important branch of their business.

On October 12, 1898, Mr. Dunlap was united in marriage with Miss Maud Coates, of Valparaiso, Indiana, a daughter of Dr. H. C. Coates. They are members of the Baptist church, and socially Mr. Dunlap

affiliates with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and Jesse Fell Lodge, Knights of Pythias. As a business man he is enterprising, energetic and progressive, and the success that he has achieved in life is due to his own well-directed efforts.

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**R**INALDO MINTON HALL, city editor of the Daily Leader, of Bloomington, and a prominent representative of the journalistic profession, is a native of McLean county, born near Downs, January 28, 1870, and is a son of Taylor Z. and Hannah (O'Neil) Hall, who were born, reared and married near Uniontown, Fayette county, Pennsylvania. The paternal grandfather was Samuel Hall, who was born in 1798 at Kennett Square, Chester county, Pennsylvania, of Quaker parentage, he being a first cousin of Bayard Taylor, the noted traveler and author. Samuel Hall married Margaret Kendall, who was born at Monroe, Fayette county, Pennsylvania, in 1800. Her father was a captain in the Revolutionary war and served with honor and distinction. Samuel Hall died at the age of sixty-four, while his wife attained the age of ninety-one years. The mother of Mrs. Taylor Hall was Elizabeth Crow, who lived to be eighty-five years of age, while her father, Henry O'Neil, lived to reach the four-score mark. They were natives of Pennsylvania.

Soon after their marriage the parents of our subject came to McLean county, Illinois, and first located at Old Delta, where the father became one of the leading blacksmiths of the county at an early day. On closing out that business, he purchased a farm a mile and a half northwest of the village of Downs, where he has since lived. He extensively carried on operations as a

general farmer for a number of years, but is now living retired upon his home farm of one hundred and sixty acres, enjoying the fruits of former toil. He has been a life-long supporter of the Democracy, and one of its most prominent and influential members in Old Town township, but has always refused political office. He has, however, taken an active part in school affairs in his district. Both he and his wife are faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal church and are deserving of the high regard in which they are uniformly held. They have reared a family of eight children, namely: Josephine, now the wife of R. W. Cole, of Leroy; Tobie, wife of George Bishop, of West Point, Mississippi; Winnie, widow of Arthur Messick, of Downs; Bunnie, who died at the age of twenty-one years; Kate, who is the widow of Charles Nelson and resides at home; Richard, a grain dealer of Downs; Rinaldo M., our subject, and Calvin S., Jr.

Rinaldo M. Hall attended the grammar and high schools of Downs, and for four years was a student in the Illinois Wesleyan University, where he took an active and prominent part in literary and social affairs, as a member of the Phi Gamma Delta and Belle Lettres Societies. He took part in a number of oratorical contests and ranked high as a college orator. He pursued a scientific course and gave special attention to Latin. After leaving college he taught for two years near Downs, and was then offered a position to do local work on the Daily Leader, with which he was connected for a year and a half.

On the 20th of September, 1894, Mr. Hall married Miss DeLila E. White, a daughter of William R. White, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume. After



his marriage he purchased the Fisher Reporter, at Fisher, Champaign county, Illinois, where he remained as editor and proprietor of a good weekly paper until May, 1897, when he sold out and accepted a position to look after some of the many interests of Mr. White and returned to Bloomington. He was associated with his father-in-law until May, 1898, when he received several good offers, one of which was to do special newspaper work at the Omaha Exposition. He also received an offer from a Chicago daily to go to the front as war correspondent, but not wishing to leave home, he accepted neither of these. He did, however, accept the position of city editor of the Daily Leader, a Republican evening daily, with which he is still connected. He has received many compliments from Republican leaders and members of Congress for his effective work in the interests of the party, for he bore an important part in the campaign of 1898. He is particularly fitted for his present responsible position by education and practical experience in all departments of newspaper work. He has always been very self-reliant and enterprising, and his independence of spirit is shown by the fact that while in college he arose regularly every morning at four o'clock to distribute papers to earn his pocket money, rather than accept it from his father, who is well-to-do. These morning trips necessitated a walk of five miles each morning before breakfast in all kinds of weather. Mr. Hall is an ardent Republican and the only one of his family to support that party. Socially, he is a member of Kickapoo Lodge, K. of P., at Downs, of which he is a charter member, and the Modern Woodmen, of Fisher, Champaign county, Illinois, and did consid-

erable work in the degree teams. He is, however, quite domestic in his tastes and cares more for his home than outside fellowship. Both he and his wife are members of the Christian church, and they are now building a beautiful home at the corner of Locust and McLean streets—the finest residence district in the city.

**H**IRAM BAKER has for thirty years been a resident of McLean county, and is one of the most extensive land owners of the state. With wonderful foresight he discerned the future development and advancement of Illinois, and on coming here, at an early day his keen sagacity prompted him to largely invest in the rich prairie land in the central section of the state. Its rise in value has made him a wealthy man, and his prosperity is certainly well merited, for his business career has been one of probity and integrity, and his capable management and diligence are justly crowned with success.

Mr. Baker is a native of the Empire state. He was born in Troy, New York, on the 27th of April, 1818, a son of Benjamin and Lucy (Ives) Baker. For many years his father was a resident of Rensselaer county, New York, and there married Miss Lucy Ives, who acquired her education in that county. He carried on agricultural pursuits, and not until late in life did he leave the old home to become a resident of Peoria county, Illinois, where his last days were passed. He held membership in the Methodist Episcopal church.

To the public-school system of his native county Hiram Baker is indebted for the educational privileges he received, re-



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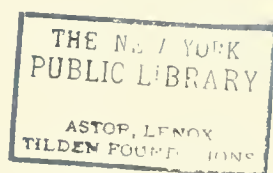
ASTOR, LENOX  
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS



HIRAM BAKER.



MRS. HIRAM BAKER.





ceiving a good business education. He was early inured to all the labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist, and assisted his father in the cultivation of the home farm until sixteen years of age. In 1837, in company with his brother Benjamin, he drove across the state to Buffalo, New York, and there, putting the horse and buggy on a boat, came by water to Detroit. From that point they drove into the wild and untraveled regions of Michigan, across corduroy bridges and over new wagon roads to Indiana, thence to Joliet, Illinois, and on to Peoria, being three weeks and one day upon the way. Peoria was then scarcely more than a hamlet, and there was no really good building in the place. From that point Hiram Baker started out on a prospecting tour, traveling over the present site of the city of Galesburg to a little place called South Cherry Grove, and on to Farmington, where he remained for about four years. During that time he purchased town lots, built a residence and engaged in lumbering and other business interests. On the expiration of that period he went to Charleston, Peoria county, now called Brimfield, and opened up a farm of one hundred and fifty acres. He erected a house and began the development and improvement of his land, carrying on general farming and stock raising. During that time Peoria was his market for all supplies. He lived upon that farm for seven years, and in the meantime purchased more land, devoting his energies entirely to agricultural pursuits and land investments.

On the 16th of December, 1847, was celebrated his marriage to Miss Sarah Fry, a native of Pennsylvania, and daughter of Benjamin and Sarah (Shafer) Fry, both of whom were also natives of Pennsylvania.

Sarah Shafer was a daughter of Thomas and Mary Shafer, who were born in Washington county, Pennsylvania. Thomas Shafer went into the Continental army under General Washington at the age of fourteen years, and served through the entire war. He died at the age of ninety-five years. Benjamin and Sarah Fry came to Illinois in 1838, and settled near Peoria, where he engaged in farming. They both died at Hinsdale, Illinois, but were buried at Peoria.

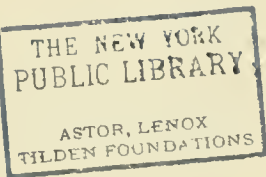
After his marriage Mr. Baker left the farm and removed to Brimfield, but did not sell his land, it being still in his possession. While residing there he was induced to hold the only political office he has ever accepted, that of alderman. His time and attention have been given entirely to his farming interests and investments, and while making his home in Peoria county he became the owner of five hundred and fifty acres on the west side of the river. He also owned a section of land in Crawford county, Iowa, but afterward traded it for Iroquois county lands. In 1866 he removed to Normal in order to provide his children with better educational advantages, and noting the richness of the alluvial soil in this section of the state, he began buying land here, and his holdings are among the most extensive of any individual owner in this locality. When he arrived in Illinois he found many young men who had come to seek a fortune in the west, discouraged and disheartened, preparing to return to the east. He told them that any one who would stay and gain possession of land would some day be well off. Time has verified the truth of this statement, and although Mr. Baker had a capital of only one hundred dollars when he came to McLean

county, he is now worth more than half a million. He has made many judicious investments, continually adding to his property interests. One of his first purchases in central Illinois was a half-section in Ford county. Later he bought another section, and added to that until he now has fourteen hundred and forty acres in Ford county of as fine land as can be found in this entire country, and all splendidly improved. He never sells his land, but continually adds to it, and now has two thousand acres in McLean county, which is under a high state of cultivation and yields to him a good income. He has also given to his two children property and money to the value of sixty thousand dollars. He also has large realty holdings in Iroquois county, and four hundred and fifty-six acres of land in Dewitt county, on which there is not a hill or a slough, all being rich rolling ground, highly cultivatable. Lands in Henry county that he purchased soon after his arrival are also still in his possession, the aggregate being nearly five thousand acres of the finest land of Illinois. His judgment as to land values is most sound and reliable, and he has depended entirely upon his own opinion in such matters.

Mr. Baker continued his residence in Normal until May 14, 1885, when he purchased a beautiful home on North Main street, Bloomington, where he and his estimable wife dispense a most cordial hospitality to their many friends. They were formerly members of the Baptist church. Two children were born to them, but the daughter, Hattie B., died December 17, 1898. She married George Champion, of Normal, and at her death left four children, Gertie B., George, Jr., Frank B. and Myrtle M. She was one of the foremost ladies

of Normal and was universally loved and respected by all who knew her. She was a friend to the poor and needy, and to all who were in distress, and was a woman of many excellencies of head and heart. The son, Frank R. Baker, is now in the real-estate business in Bloomington, where he has a fine residence on Franklin square, erected and given him by his father. He married Miss Delia A. Shelton, and they have two children: Fred R., who is a member of the graduating class of 1899 in Williams College; and Beulah, who will graduate from the high school of Bloomington in June, 1899. In the spring of 1857 Mr. Baker gave one thousand dollars to assist in building the old Chicago University, which was under the control of the Baptist church. Owing to the hard times the buildings were lost, but he has the satisfaction of knowing that later the institution was aided in a most substantial manner by John D. Rockefeller, and backed by him to a successful issue. Mr. Baker was also one of six gentlemen to build a Baptist church in Brimfield, Illinois, which was afterwards destroyed by fire.

Such is the life history of one whose record is indeed creditable and worthy of emulation. He came to the west determined to win success through honorable effort and diligence, and his close application to business, his keen discrimination and his unabating energy have enabled him to realize his hopes. He has commanded uniform respect by his honorable methods, and enjoys the regard of all with whom he has been brought in contact. For thirty years a resident of McLean county he is numbered among her valued citizens, and this work would be incomplete without the record of his life.





FRANK BAKER.





MRS. FRANK BAKER.

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JACOB SHOLTY. Among the many beautiful rural homes of Dale township, none is more pleasant than that of the subject of this sketch, who is one of the most progressive and successful agriculturists of his community. He was born in that township on the 2nd of April, 1863, and is a son of Henry and Susan (Swinehart) Sholty. The father is a native of Pennsylvania, but when small he went to Ohio with his father, and at the age of nineteen years came with the family to Bloomington, Illinois. Soon afterward the grandfather of our subject located in Dale township, where he improved a farm and continued to make his home until his death. Henry Sholty remained on the old homestead until after his father died, but was married upon another farm which he purchased in the same township, and which has been his home almost continuously since, though for the past few years he has lived retired in Bloomington. Through his own unaided efforts he has secured a competence, and is now the owner of three hundred and forty acres of valuable land in Dale township. He is honored and respected wherever known, and the success that he has achieved in life is certainly well-merited. His faithful wife died in 1898.

Of the four children born to this worthy couple, our subject is the third in order of birth. He was educated in the common schools, and remained upon the home farm with his father until he was married, June 13, 1886, to Miss Florence Staley, daughter of Andrew Staley, of Dale township. The children born of this union are Henry, Elmer, Clara, Fern and Ivan.

After his marriage, Mr. Sholty purchased one hundred and twenty acres of rich and arable land and embarked in general farming and stock raising on his own account.

As he has met with success in his chosen calling, he has been enabled to extend the boundaries of his farm from time to time until it now includes two hundred and twenty acres of excellent land, adding to the original tract first twenty acres and later two forty-acre tracts. This he has improved with good and substantial buildings, including a beautiful home built in 1896 in modern style of architecture and supplied with all conveniences, so that it is one of the most elegant country residences in the county and would add to the beauty of any city. In his political affiliations Mr. Sholty is a Republican and he has done much to advance the educational interests of his locality while serving for two terms as school director of his district. He and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church and give liberally to its support.

ORR E. WHITE, manager of the S. R. White Manufacturing Company of Bloomington, is one of the most wide-awake and enterprising business men of the city. Here he was born November 17, 1872, a son of Samuel R. White, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume, and in the public and high schools of the city he acquired his literary training. Later he entered the St. Joe (Missouri) Business College, who was conducted by his uncle, J. B. Moore, and there he took a business course and also one in drafting. To further fit himself for his present business he spent a year in an architect's office. With these preparations he returned to Bloomington and entered his father's factory. As he became more and more conversant with the business, he was gradually advanced to more responsible positions until he became mana-

ger of the large plant, having from thirty-five to forty men working under him. Here everything connected with house finishing is manufactured, including doors, sash, blinds and all kinds of wood work, it being one of the largest factories of the kind in central Illinois. In its management Mr. White has displayed remarkable executive ability, sound judgment and keen perception, and the business has steadily increased in volume and importance until it is one of the leading industries of the city. (A more extended mention of the business is given in connection with his father's sketch.)

On the 12th of May, 1896, Mr. White was united in marriage with Miss Minnette Meredith, of Brook, Indiana, a daughter of Rev. H. W. Meredith, a minister of the United Brethren church. They now have one son, Samuel R., named for his grandfather. The family have a pleasant home at No. 304 East Douglas street, one of the most beautiful resident districts of Bloomington. Both Mr. and Mrs. White are members of the First Methodist Episcopal church, in which he is one of the ushers, and he is also a member of the Young Men's Christian Association. He is popular in social, as well as business circles, and has a host of warm friends throughout the city.

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**JOHN H. NORRIS.**—Prominent among the influential business men of Normal is the gentleman whose name introduces this review, and who has been a resident since receiving an honorable discharge from the government, at the close of the Civil war. He was born in Westchester county, Pennsylvania, in 1833, and is a son of Thomas and Mary Norris. The former was an experienced horticulturist from whom

his son obtained his early knowledge and experience, which enabled him to carry on so successfully the business in which he is at present engaged. The mother of our subject died when he was very young, and his father married the second time, a lady who did not assume the full responsibility of a mother toward him, consequently he was thrown on his own resources, battling with life through the early vicissitudes of boyhood. In 1848 he went to Chicago, and shortly afterward to Aurora, where he remained some time, going later to Granville, Putnam county, Illinois, remaining until the opening of the Civil war, when he enlisted as a member of Company H, Twentieth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. In 1863 he was captured and confined in Libby Prison, being held as a prisoner of war until his exchange three months later, when he rejoined his regiment at Vicksburg, and on the 22d of July was wounded in the battle of Atlanta. After a service of over four years, he received his discharge papers in 1865, at Springfield, Illinois.

Upon his return to civil life, he came direct to Normal, and after a few years engaged in his present business, horticulture. His nurseries occupy a number of large blocks, and he possesses besides several business blocks, which he has not yet disposed of for building purposes. His fruits are widely known, and are in great demand at all seasons, as he cultivates only the best in quality and flavor. In 1865, Mr. Norris was united in marriage to Sarah G. Henning, a native of Pennsylvania, who was born in 1835, in Phoenixville, Chester county. Five children have been born to them, two of whom are living, Fannie B. and Kittie M. For nearly one year the latter held the responsible position of librarian of Normal.



The Norris family attend the Presbyterian church, and are held in the highest esteem. Mr. Norris is a prominent member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and is a strong believer in the principles of the Republican party, to which he gives his support. At the present time he is a member of the city council, and fills the office in a very acceptable manner. He is a public-spirited citizen, and is much honored and respected by his associates.

JOHN W. HAYES, president of the Co-operative Stove Company, and one of its original members, has through his own exertions attained an honorable position and marked prestige among the representative business men of Bloomington, and with signal consistency it may be said that he is the architect of his own fortune.

Mr. Hayes was born in County Waterford, Ireland, September 17, 1858, and is a son of John and Bridget (Flynn) Hayes. In 1862 he accompanied the family on their emigration to the new world and located at Bloomington, Illinois, where the father was employed as a blacksmith in the Alton railway shops until his retirement from active labor, spending his last years in ease and quiet. He died in 1874, leaving four children, namely: Mrs. Mary Flynn, a resident of Bloomington; Patrick, of Denver, Colorado; David, of Bloomington, where he is engaged in the drug business; and John W., of this review. The mother is still living and is a devout member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church, to which the father also belonged.

In the public schools of Bloomington, John W. Hayes acquired his education, and on leaving school at the age of thirteen

years commenced the battle of life for himself in the employ of the Phoenix Nursery, with which he was connected until nineteen. He then served an apprenticeship of four years to the molder's trade in the Bloomington Stove Company's works and continued in their employ for eight years. He was then active in organizing the Co-operative Stove Company in 1886, with a capital of ten thousand dollars, which has twice been increased since that time and is now fifty thousand dollars. He was elected the first president of the company and has since filled that office, while A. C. Hamilton serves as treasurer and manager, and C. A. Hamilton as superintendent. They began business in Normal on a small scale, doing most of their work and acting as their own salesmen. As their business steadily increased, they found their plant at Normal too small, and in 1892 they purchased what is known as the Empire works on the Illinois Central railroad. Here their main building is three hundred by forty-two feet and two stories in height and is built of brick. It is occupied entirely by their works, which have reached extensive proportions, to meet the growing demands of their trade. The members of the company started out for themselves with a good practical knowledge of the business, and being ambitious, industrious, persevering and enterprising, have been successful, and they are now numbered among the leading business men of the city.

On November 28, 1882, Mr. Hayes was united in marriage with Miss Julia Fitzgerald, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, formerly of Bloomington, a daughter of John Fitzgerald, who died when she was young. Of the eight children born of this union, Julia died December 23, 1896, at the age of

eight years and three months. Those still living are Francis, Florence, Mona, Lewis, Lauretta, Josephine and John. The family resides at 105 Kelsey street, and they are members of Holy Trinity Catholic church. Politically, he has been a supporter of the Republican party for the past fourteen years, but has never been a politician in the sense of office seeking. He has the respect and confidence of his business associates, and is held in high regard by all who know him.

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**W**ILLIAM F. SPREEN, a well-known and popular engineer on the Chicago & Alton Railroad residing in Bloomington, has been a trusted employe of that company since August, 1872. A native of Illinois, he was born in Alton, July 18, 1853, and is a son of William and Christina (Wagenfield) Spreen. The father was born in 1822, in a village near Berlin, Germany, and was a son of William Spreen, who owned and operated a farm which had been in the family for many years and is still owned by one of his grandsons. There the father grew to manhood, attending the schools of the neighborhood, and during his youth he served an apprenticeship to the cabinetmaker's trade, which he followed in his native land until his marriage. His wife was a native of the same place, born in 1824, and was a daughter of Franz Wagenfield, proprietor of an inn and a very prominent man in that locality. He was a distinguished officer in the German army, serving with a rank corresponding to that of our major, and his sons were also in the service. Mr. and Mrs. Spreen were married March 23, 1847, without the consent of her parents, and at once sailed for the United States. Landing in

this country they proceeded at once to Alton, Illinois, and had many hardships to endure in making a home in the new world. For a time the father worked at his trade and later engaged in business as a contractor and builder, erecting many fine residences in Alton and two large factories. At one time when a business block was destroyed by fire, he erected a temporary building one hundred ten by forty-eight feet and two stories in height in forty-eight hours, so that business might be continued until more substantial quarters could be established. He became quite successful and prosperous and since 1895 has lived retired, enjoying a well-earned rest. In the First Baptist church of Alton he and his wife hold membership, and they are held in high esteem by all who know them. Twelve children were born to them, six sons and six daughters, but five daughters died before they reached the age of two years, and one son at the age of twenty-two.

William F. Spreen was educated in the second ward and high schools of Alton and in early life worked with his father for a short time. He then learned the machinist's trade and soon took charge of an engine and hydraulic pump in the castor oil mill of Captain D. C. Adams. In 1872 he accepted a position as fireman on the Chicago & Alton Railroad, running from Alton east, and in the fall of 1875 was promoted to what is called hostler, running an extra train from Alton. In the fall of 1876, he was called to Bloomington to take a regular engine and has been a resident of the city since. He was in the freight service until 1888, when he was promoted to the passenger service, with which he is still connected. He was on the night express for some time until the limited was put on the road. He brought

it on its first trip out of St. Louis and has run it ever since. He has been remarkably fortunate in his railroad career, having never had a serious accident, though twice he has been compelled to jump from his engine in order to save his life. He is widely and favorably known in railroad circles; is a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, in which he served for one term as assistant engineer; and is also connected with the Odd Fellows Lodge, No. 1, of Alton. He has built a fine home at No. 811 West Washington street, where hospitality reigns supreme and the many friends of the family are always sure of a hearty welcome.

On the 25th of December, 1877, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Spreen and Miss Elizabeth Carter, of Alton, and to them have been born three children: Walter William, who is a graduate of Brown's Business College and now holds a position with the drug firm of Fuller & Fuller, of Chicago; Charles Carter and Mildred Christina, who is still attending school. Mrs. Spreen is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and the older son holds membership in the Christian church.

Mrs. Spreen was born, reared and educated in Alton, and is a daughter of Charles and Elizabeth (Hunt) Carter. The father was born in Northampton, Massachusetts, in 1828, and was a son of Henry Carter, of that place, while the mother was born in Poughkeepsie, New York, and is a daughter of William Hunt, who belonged to an old family of New York City and on coming west located in Springfield, Illinois. Charles Carter, Mrs. Spreen's father, was reared in his native place and in the fall of 1851 came to Illinois. The following year he became connected with the Chicago & Alton Railroad as conductor, and after serv-

ing in that capacity for some years was made train master. He had charge of laying the track from Springfield to Bloomington, and as a fuel agent sold wood from his land to the road in early days when A. H. Moore was superintendent. On account of injuring his eyes, Mr. Carter had to give up railroading and for a short time engaged in farming at Shipman, Illinois. Selling his property there, he moved to Springfield and formed a partnership with a Mr. Hibbs, engaging in merchant tailoring under the firm name of Carter & Hibbs. During the Civil war they made many uniforms and did an excellent business. He spent his last days in retirement from active labor and died April 2, 1880. His wife is still living as are also five of their children. Both held membership in the Methodist Episcopal church and have the respect and esteem of all who knew them.

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DAVID W. STANGER.—Among the residents of McLean county, who by their own efforts have raised themselves to a position of prominence, and by honesty, uprightness and good management have reached a fair degree of prosperity, is the gentleman whose name stands at the head of this review. He comes of good German-American stock, his ancestors being people of considerable prominence and education. His paternal grandfather emigrated to this country, locating in West Virginia. He was a great student and a man of much natural ability, and received his education in the best schools of Germany. He was a graduate of colleges of medicine and theology, and received the degree of Doctor of Divinity. He was a minister in the German Lutheran church, and a wonderfully elo-



quent speaker, being gifted beyond the average man. John Stanger, Jr., the father of our subject, was one of six children, and moved from his home in West Virginia to Indiana, in about 1820. He was the proprietor of two hundred forty acres of land, and was a well-to-do farmer, upright and honorable in all his dealings. After the death of his first wife he returned to his old home, where he remained a few years, and where he married a lady by whom he had ten children. After his second marriage, he returned to Indiana where he resided until his death in 1884. In his political convictions he was a Democrat, and a strong adherent to that party. Prior to her marriage, the mother of our subject was Miss Kattie Brownlow, of Tennessee, and is a cousin of Parson Brownlow, of historic fame. She died when our subject was thirty hours old, and was the mother of six children.

David W. Stanger, the subject of this review, was born in Monroe county, Indiana, October 13, 1828, where he was reared and educated, the greater portion of his time, prior to his twenty-first year, in farming. In 1849 he removed to McLean county, Illinois, locating in Cheney's Grove. In March, 1853, he took up one hundred sixty acres of prairie land, upon which he built, making all the necessary improvements, and here he remained for six years, at the end of that time going to California where he spent one year, and the seven years following in the gold mines of Nevada. In 1879 he went to Oregon, where he spent some time prospecting, and then returned to Nevada to the aforementioned mines, until 1874, when he returned to Illinois, and has since made this state his permanent home, living a quiet and retired life at Normal.

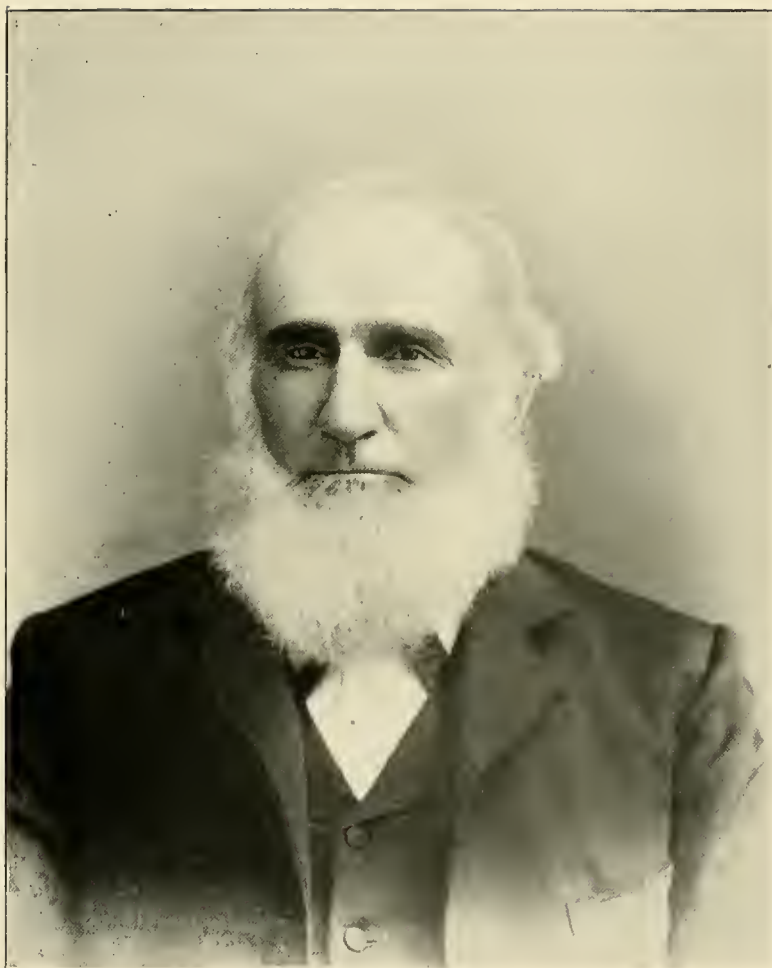
On the 18th of February, 1877, Mr.

Stanger was married to Miss Nannie Duke, a daughter of Polly and Joel Duke, and a native of Kentucky, who was born September 16, 1838, and came to Illinois in 1866. No little ones have come to bless this union, and as home is dark without the light of childhood, Mr. and Mrs. Stanger adopted a little girl of one year who was born April 23, 1884. Our subject is a self-made man, who has reached his present degree of prosperity by his own individual efforts. Politically, he is an advocate of high tariff, standing firmly upon the Republican platform. He is a member of no particular church, but believes in and practices those principles which the church teaches.

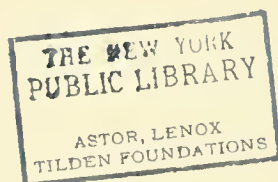
JOHN HAYNES, a retired farmer and carpenter, now residing in the city of Normal, was born in Shropshire, England, March 9, 1831, and is the son of William and Ann (Baldwin) Haynes, both of whom were also natives of England. William Haynes was a cooper by trade and a good mechanic. He was a worthy man, a member of the church of England, a pew holder, a free holder and a man of influence. His counsel to his children, and especially to John, was to keep good company or none, for "evil communications corrupt good morals." He died in 1839, at the age of sixty-eight years. His wife died later in life, and in a triumphant state of mind and heart, bestowing on her children the benedictions of God.

The genealogy and armorial designs of the Haynes family runs back in Montgomeryshire, through Einion to Gwinn, Lord of Guilsfield, son of Griffith ap Beli, descendant of Brockwell Yschithrog, Prince of Powys, who reigned in A. D. 607, over





JOHN HAYNES.



Powysland, Wales. Gen. James Haynes, who captured the Isle of Jersey under Cromwell, and was its governor in 1652, used upon his seal attached to official papers the same arms as the Shropshire and Montgomeryshire family of Haynes. His crest was the golden eagle displayed standing on a tortoise. He used as a motto. "There is no difficulty to him that wills." The genealogy of the family is traced back for fourteen generations, and is connected with the first families of Wales with royal blood in their veins. Credit for the above genealogy is due A. M. Haynes, of Galena, Illinois.

William and Ann Haynes had born to them seven children, five of whom are yet living, viz.: Mrs. Margaret Edwards, Mrs. Ann Icke, Mrs. Mary Cealey, Thomas and John, the latter being the subject of this sketch. He was the eldest son, and his early training and education was received in his native place. He was educated under the supervision of the church of England, with the New Testament as reader. He completed his school life when eleven years of age, and then hired out to a farmer for two pounds (about ten dollars) and a pair of shoes for one year's work, but the shoes he never saw. After working on a farm for five years and saving some money, he bound himself to a carpenter and wheelwright until he was twenty years old. After his time was served, he worked as a journeyman for seven years, at one pound (five dollars) per week.

In 1859, work being slack in his native country, and seeing no prospect of speedy improvement, Mr. Haynes turned his face westward to that land where all men are free and equal, and where man is liberally remunerated for his labor. After a stormy

voyage of twenty days, he arrived in New York, February 22, 1859, from which place he went at once to Berlin, Wisconsin, thence to Chicago, and from there to St. Louis. Not finding employment, he went to Kansas, and from there to Independence, Missouri, having traveled three thousand miles before he was engaged as a mechanic. While he was employed in Missouri, a short distance from Independence, he unconsciously became involved in the slavery question, which caused him considerable trouble, and nearly a flogging. One of his employer's slaves being asked by a fellow workman if she would prefer slavery to freedom, replied that she preferred freedom and stated her reasons, to which Mr. Haynes said Amen. This came to his employer's ears, and a retraction was demanded of him, or he should suffer a flogging. He was willing to be flogged, but with his eyes open to the evils of slavery he could not take back his words. He had the courage of his convictions and his employer saw it. He was finally excused because of his ignorance of the existing laws. This circumstance disgusted him with the laws that sanctioned human bondage and so he left Independence for Illinois. However, he stopped for a short time at Hannibal, Missouri, where he worked at his trade, but here he again got into trouble on the slavery question. On Sunday he attended the Methodist Episcopal church, and on the next day he was discharged, not because he went to church, but because it was a Methodist Episcopal church, North.

From this slavery-cursed state he hastened, and was pleased to be located in a pure atmosphere before John Brown left for Harper's Ferry. In September, 1859, he arrived at Normal and found employment on

the Normal School building at one dollar and twenty-five cents per day and his board. He worked on the building until February, 1860, but never received his wages, the contractor drawing his money and skipping the state. So for his fall and winter's work he received only his board, and consequently feels that he has an interest in the Illinois State Normal School which is likely to last his lifetime.

In the spring of 1860, Mr. Haynes went to Hudson, McLean county, where he rented a small farm and there remained for two years. During this early day there were no fences to keep the stock within bounds, or to keep them from wandering at will over the prairie. Under these circumstances it was necessary to confine the calf that the dam might remain near by. On one occasion Mr. Haynes lost a calf, thus losing that attraction which would naturally keep the parent cow at home. He therefore skinned the dead calf, placing the skin on another but strange calf, to induce the parent to adopt it, which she did after a very critical investigation. This is regarded as one of the greatest impositions that was ever played upon a poor, unsuspecting cow. On this Hudson farm he raised good crops, and his first load of grain he gave to the Kansas sufferers. His brother Thomas was with him at this time, and on the breaking out of the civil war, in 1861, Thomas joined the Fifty-second Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was with Sherman on his march to the sea. The following year John Haynes also enlisted, becoming a member of Company E, Ninety-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which was under the command of Colonel McNulty, his company commander being Captain Rowe. With his regiment he participated in the battle of Springfield, Mis-

souri, siege of Vicksburg, and other engagements of minor importance. On account of his mechanical skill, he was the first winter placed on detached duty. After the siege of Vicksburg his command was sent to Brownsville, Texas, by way of New Orleans, and at the latter place he was discharged in June, 1865.

On his return to civil life, Mr. Haynes chose for himself a life companion in the person of Mrs. Mary Dunseth, daughter of Adam Henthorn, to whom he was wedded in September, 1865. By this union there were two children born, Nettie A., born September 5, 1866, and an infant died unnamed, born in 1869. Mrs. Mary Haynes was a native of Hudson township, McLean county, and died in September, 1869. For his second wife, Mr. Haynes married Mrs. Eliza Myers, *née* Rowe, a native of Pickaway county, Ohio, born August 3, 1830. They were married December 14, 1869, and by this union there were born three children: Cora A., now deceased, October 9, 1870; Emma S., October 17, 1872; and John F., January 4, 1876.

In 1876 Mr. Haynes purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, near Hudson, upon which he resided nine years, engaged successfully in farming and stock raising. In 1883, he purchased another farm of eighty acres, which like the first, was under improvement. He still owns the two farms, as well as much valuable property in the city of Normal, where he is now comfortably situated in the evening of life. He and his family are consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He was converted in England in 1854, and has been identified with the church ever since. He has held the office of trustee and class leader since 1865, and has been a faithful and



efficient member of the Sunday-school for many years, a teacher of the Bible class, for which he has received a diploma each year for the past five years from the Loyal Sunday-school Department of Illinois.

In politics Mr. Haynes is a Republican, and has held the offices of school director, road commissioner, and other minor local offices to the satisfaction of his constituents. He is truly a self-made man, and through all his varied experiences he has never lost sight of that hand that guides the world and moves the hearts of men. Looking back on his past life, he can thus say with the poet: "Thus far the Lord hath led me on; thus far his power prolongs my days."

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**G**EORGE ALFORD STRINGFIELD, the well-known proprietor of the Stringfield Music House of Bloomington, is a true type of western progress and enterprise. His intellectual energy, prudent business methods and reliable sagacity have all combined to make him one of the ablest business men of the city.

Mr. Stringfield is a native of McLean county, born on a farm two miles southeast of Randolph, July 6, 1862, and he is a representative of an honored pioneer family of the state and county. His grandfather, Alfred M. Stringfield, was born in Huntsville, Alabama, October 14, 1809, and when a lad of nine years came to Illinois with his father, John Stringfield, stopping first in White county, and later locating near Springfield, in Sangamon county, where his father died only nine days after his arrival there. He left his family without a home or any means of support, as he had lost all his money in the south by going security for

others, and had come north with the hope of retrieving his lost possessions. After the father's death the family came to Randolph Grove, McLean county, and located on the farm now owned by Dr. Stewart, which was entered by the grandfather of our subject in his mother's name. The family went to Jo Daviess county, where he worked in the lead mines to earn the money to enter his land, and there his mother died. After securing the needed amount they all returned to McLean county, and the grandfather turned his attention to the improvement and cultivation of his land. He followed general farming throughout life, and met with well-deserved success, owning at one time over four hundred acres of valuable land in this county. On the 25th of March, 1832, he married Miss Amelia T. Hand, of Randolph Grove, a daughter of George C. Hand, who came here from Ohio, but had previously lived in Pennsylvania. Of the ten children born of this union, eight reached years of maturity. The parents were both active and prominent members of the pioneer Methodist Episcopal church of this region, and Mr. Stringfield served as class leader and steward and filled other church offices. The father of our subject can well remember the early camp-meetings held near their home, when the little dwelling was filled with all that could be accommodated at night in the beds and on the floor. The grandfather was quite a prominent and influential man of his community, and was called upon to fill several township offices, including those of supervisor and justice of the peace. He died June 15, 1895, and his wife passed away September 6, 1885.

Jesse F. Stringfield, father of our subject, was born in Randolph Grove, this

county, September 26, 1835, was reared on the home farm and educated in the common schools of the neighborhood. He was married in 1861, to Miss Mary F. Land, who died in the latter part of 1862, leaving one son, George A., of this review. She was also a native of Randolph township, and a daughter of George W. Land, originally from Kentucky. Mr. Stringfield has never again married. In 1862 he took a part of his father's farm and throughout his active business life was engaged in agricultural pursuits. After the death of his wife he returned to his father's home and for many years they were in partnership in their farming operations. In later years he had entire charge of the business and still owns a part of the old homestead, but for the past four years has lived retired from active labor, making his home with his son in Bloomington. He is a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he has served as steward and trustee for many years, and by his upright, honorable life he has gained the confidence and respect of all with whom he has come in contact.

The early education of George A. Stringfield was acquired in the public schools of McLean county, and in the fall of 1881 he entered the Illinois Wesleyan University, where he pursued his studies for one year. As his mother died when he was only two months old, he was reared in his grandfather's home, and after leaving school he engaged in farming with his father on the old homestead until 1889. In the spring of 1889, he was elected justice of the peace for Randolph township and filled that office for four years. In the meantime he had acquired a taste for the real estate business and displayed considerable ability along that line, and on coming to Bloomington, in

1889, he opened an office and for several years devoted his entire time and attention to the real estate and insurance business, meeting with marked success. He handled a large amount of real estate, mostly for himself, and dealt chiefly in farming land, not only in this county but elsewhere in the state and also in adjoining states. He has owned a great many hundred acres, and still has fifteen hundred acres. He is yet interested in the real estate business, which he carried on exclusively until October, 1894, when he became connected with the old J. T. Adams Music House. Later he took full control of the business and removed to his present elegant room at No. 528 Hoblit Buildings, being the first tenant in the same. Here he carries a full line of musical merchandise, pianos, etc., having the largest and best selected stock of the kind in the city, and employment is furnished to four people. Besides the business already mentioned Mr. Stringfield conducts a farm of eight hundred acres, on which he employs a number of men to do general farming.

On the 25th of November, 1891, Mr. Stringfield was united in marriage with Miss Lovisa A. Thomas, a daughter of W. D. Thomas, deceased, of South Charleston, Ohio. One child blesses this union, Aleta May. Mr. and Mrs. Stringfield are both active and prominent members of the Methodist Episcopal church, with which he has been connected for thirteen years, and has served as superintendent of the Sunday-school and a member of the board. He is a Democrat in politics but not an advocate of the free coinage of silver, at a ratio of sixteen to one. Courteous, genial, well-informed, alert and enterprising, he stands to-day one of the leading representative men of the city.

**A**ARON P. RHODES. The world instinctively pays deference to the man whose success has been worthily achieved and one who has gained a high reputation in his chosen calling. Through his own well-directed efforts, Mr. Rhodes has become one of the most prosperous, as well as one of the most extensive farmers, and stock raisers of McLean county. He has made good use of his opportunities, has conducted all business matters carefully and successfully and in all his acts displays an aptitude for successful management.

This well-known agriculturist of Bloomington township is a native of McLean county, his birth occurring in the township where he still lives, on the 18th of April, 1834. His parents, John H. S. and Mary (Johnson) Rhodes, are presented on another page of this volume. During his boyhood and youth he attended the common schools, and became familiar with all the duties which fall to the lot of the agriculturist, aiding his father in the work of the home farm until 1859, when he entered Eureka College and took an elective course.

At the breaking out of the Civil war, Mr. Rhodes offered his services to the country, enlisting in May, 1861, in Company G, Seventeenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which was first sent to Missouri under General Prentice. They went down the Mississippi river to Bird's Point, and later met the enemy at Cape Girardeau, Iron Mountain and Pilot Knob, where engagements were brought on. On the expiration of his three months' term, our subject re-enlisted in the same company and regiment, and later participated in the battles of Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Memphis, Vicksburg, Jackson and Black river. His first engagement was at Fredericksburg,

and he later took part in all of the battles and skirmishes in which his regiment was engaged. He was mustered out at Springfield, Illinois, late in the year 1864 and returned home with a war record of which he may be justly proud.

Mr. Rhodes then located on a tract of ninety acres of land given him by his father, who owned twenty-one hundred acres in Bloomington township, and upon that place he still resides, having built in 1875 what is considered the best country home in the township. It is surrounded by a beautiful lawn and in all its appointments is a most attractive place. Mr. Rhodes began his business career as a dealer in mules, for twelve years buying, feeding and shipping mules quite extensively, and he found the business quite remunerative until 1877. During this time he kept adding to his farm from time to time and also became interested in cattle and hogs as a feeder and dealer, and in heavy draft horses as an importer and breeder, always keeping about fifty head and selling the same when three or four years old. Of more recent years he has lived rather retired, and now rents all of his land with the exception of twenty-five acres. So prosperous has he been, that he now is the owner of ten hundred and fifty acres of land in Bloomington township, and has large tracts of land in the west. He is also a heavy stockholder in the Third National Bank at Bloomington, and has been offered a directorship but declined. He was one of the first stockholders, buying his stock at first for one dollar and eight cents, but for his last he paid two dollars and ten cents, so valuable has it become.

Mr. Rhodes first married Miss Mattie M. Cox, of Bloomington, a daughter of David Cox, a farmer of his neighborhood, who



came to McLean county as early as 1826. They were married November 21, 1864, and she died in February, 1876, leaving two children: Edward is a graduate of the Bloomington high schools, has also attended the college at Valparaiso, Indiana, and spent four years at the State University at Champaign, graduating from the law department; and Ora M., after graduating at Normal, took a four-years course at Champaign, where he was granted the degree of A. B., and is now a student at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, of Chicago. He graduated from the Military School at Champaign, and now holds a commission as captain in the regular army, but was not called into service during the Spanish-American war. On the 9th of November, 1882, Mr. Rhodes married Miss Charlotte Reid, of Champaign county, Ohio, where her father, Robert Reid, was a farmer. They both died in McLean county—he in 1892—she in 1895. Mrs. Rhodes taught school for twelve years in Ohio, and after coming to McLean county, taught for four years.

Mr. and Mrs. Rhodes attend the Christian church and are numbered among the most prominent and highly esteemed citizens of this community. He casts his ballot with the Republican party, has served as supervisor of Bloomington township, and was highway commissioner for seven years. He has also served as township school trustee and school director of his district, and has ever taken a deep and commendable interest in education affairs, giving his sons the very best of opportunities along that line. He is a man of more than ordinary ability and force of character and by his industry, close attention to business and sound judgment he has acquired a handsome competence, which now enables him to practical-

ly live retired. His pleasant, genial manner, which combined with his sterling worth, makes him one of the popular citizens of his native county.

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REV. STANLEY A. MCKAY, D. D., is a man whose whole life has been devoted to the work of the ministry, and he is now the beloved pastor of the First Baptist church of Bloomington, with which he has been identified for the past three years.

He was born in Mansfield, Cattaraugus county, New York, September 11, 1850, a son of Hiram V. R. and Tryphena L. (Fuller) McKay. The father was born in Attica, New York, March 5, 1822, but early in life removed to Cattaraugus county with his father, Silas McKay, a pioneer of that region, who opened up one of the best farms in the central part of the county. The grandfather of our subject was quite a prominent man in his community, was captain of a militia company and was known as Captain Silas McKay. His great-grandfather, Alexander McKay, came to this country from Scotland. On the maternal side our subject is a direct descendant of Roger Williams, his mother's grandmother being a Miss Williams. All of his ancestors came to America prior to the Revolutionary war, several of whom served in the Continental army, which fact makes the Doctor eligible to membership in the Sons of the Revolution. Hiram V. R. McKay, the Doctor's father, is the seventh in order of birth in a family of ten sons, of whom nine lived until the youngest was sixty years old. He engaged in farming first at Mansfield, New York, then carried on the same occupation at Salamanca, but most of his life has been



passed in Little Valley, though he now lives in Ellicottville, New York. At an early day he was a strong abolitionist, and as a "conductor" on the "underground railroad" he assisted more than one slave on his way to Canada and freedom. He has been a firm supporter of the Republican party since its organization, and filled the office of justice of the peace for a number of years. He is a sincere Christian man, was a member of a Freewill Baptist church during its existence, served as deacon and clerk in the same for twenty years. His wife, who departed this life December 3, 1879, was a faithful member of the same church, and was a lady of marked intelligence and energy of character. She was one of the pioneer school teachers of Cattaraugus county, New York, where at the age of seventeen years she opened a school in a lumber camp. The school room was only fifteen feet wide, with seats of shingle blocks, and when school opened there was but one book, a frayed and worn New Testament, in the entire school. The book equipment was later greatly enlarged by an edition of an old English reader and a part of Cobb's speller. She taught there for a number of years. She was born in Elba, New York, and was a daughter of Cyrus W. Fuller, who opened up a farm in what is now a portion of the village of Little Valley, Cattaraugus county. She was the mother of two children: Stanley A., of this sketch; and Flora L., who died in Minnesota, May 23, 1893.

Dr. McKay began his education in the common schools of Little Valley, and later entered Chamberlain Institute at Randolph, New York, but finished his preparation for college at Ten Broeck Free Academy, Franklinville, that state. In 1874 he became a student in the University of Rochester, where

he was graduated with the degree of A. B., in 1878. He then pursued a three-years course in the Rochester Theological Seminary, and immediately after leaving school in the spring of 1881, he took charge of a small church at Lyons, New York, with a membership of sixteen, twelve of these being active members. He was ordained July 13, 1881. During his theological course his mother and both his wife's parents died. December 29, 1879, he was married to Miss Helen S. Crandall, a daughter of P. M. Crandall, an attorney of Rochester, New York.

Dr. McKay remained in Lyons until January, 1887, and built up the congregation, taking into the membership one hundred and twenty-five members. He went there as a mission pastor, but left it self-supporting and free from debt and with an endowment of five thousand dollars. He bought a good parsonage and also enlarged the church edifice. His next charge was a church of two hundred thirty members at Canandaigua, New York, and it proved a pleasant pastorate. During the two years and a half he spent there he removed the indebtedness of forty-one hundred dollars, and ninety persons were received into the church, mostly by baptism. While there, he was for one year president of the Genesee Baptist Ministers Conference, which held its regular monthly meetings at the Theological Seminary in Rochester. Dr. McKay was next called to Owatonna, Minnesota, where the late George Pillsbury was erecting new buildings for the institute now known as Pillsbury Academy, to which he made large endowments. For two years during his residence there our subject lectured at that school on Old Testament history. He also had charge of a Baptist church, which at first numbered only one hundred and

ninety members, but under his pastorate two hundred and ten were added to the church. A new edifice was erected at a cost of twenty-four thousand dollars, of which twenty thousand dollars was raised for the building proper. Dr. McKay next accepted a call to the First Baptist church of La Crosse, Wisconsin, where his work was chiefly in reconstructing the church and placing a fine new pipe organ in the same, these repairs amounting to sixty-five hundred dollars. During the summer of 1896 he was engaged as supply of a church at Wauwatosa, a suburb of Milwaukee, and on the 1st of September, 1896, received a call from the First Baptist church of Bloomington, with which he has since been connected. It is a strong church and one of the oldest in the city. Its membership is now eight hundred and twenty-nine. During his ministry here Dr. McKay has removed an indebtedness of seven thousand six hundred dollars that has hung over this church for years, and he has thus given to the church new life. He is a zealous and active worker in the cause of the Master and is greatly beloved by all who know him, those outside of his own congregation as well as those within. During his residence in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois, he has been a member of the Baptist State Board of Missions, and at present is a member of the executive committee for Illinois. He is also a trustee of Shurtliff College, which institution conferred the honorary degree of D. D. upon him in 1898, and elected him a trustee at the same time. For nine years he was chaplain of the New York State Grange, an organization which is now the most powerful of its kind in the world and has a membership of eighty thousand in that state. In the west his church work has absorbed all his time. He is one

of the working members of the College-Alumni Club and is one of the executive committee.

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ASA HARVEY MOORE is now living a retired life in Bloomington, but it would be difficult to find any individual who has been more actively, prominently and honorably connected with the industrial and commercial interests of the city and state through a longer period than has the subject of this review. His success in life has been most marked, yet it is but the logical result of well directed efforts. If those who claim that fortune has favored certain individuals above others will but investigate the cause of success and failure, it will be found that the former is largely due to the wise improvement of opportunity, the latter to the neglect of it. Fortunate environment encompasses nearly every man at some stage in his career, but the strong man and the successful man is he who realizes that the proper moment has come, that the present and not the future holds his opportunity. The man who makes use of the Now and not the To Be is he who passes on the highway of life others who started out ahead of him, and reaches the goal far in advance of them. It is this quality in Mr. Moore that has made him a leader in the business world and won him a name in connection with industrial and railroad interests that is known throughout the state.

He was born in Rutland, Worcester county, Massachusetts, October 28, 1820, and is a son of Asa and Sabra (Lover) Moore. The father was born and reared in Royalston, Massachusetts, and became a contractor, builder and real estate dealer. His wife was also a native of Royalston, where they



A. H. MOORE.

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resided for some years after their marriage and then removed to Rutland. Later they went to Princeton, but the father died at the home of a daughter in Oakham, aged eighty-three years. They were members of the Presbyterian church and had a family of two sons and three daughters.

Asa H. Moore attended the public schools of Rutland and a boarding school at Worcester, Massachusetts, after which he entered upon his business career as an employe of the Boston & Worcester Railroad Company in their freight house at Grafton. Before the completion of the Boston and Albany road, he entered the employ of that company. Major George W. Whistler, the civil engineer in charge of the construction, wished to get from Worcester to Springfield, but at that time there had been no passenger train over the road. S. P. Lee, the manager, requested Mr. Moore to take the Major to Springfield; they started at nine P. M. on their run of sixty miles, arriving at their destination at midnight, and thus Mr. Moore was conductor of the first passenger train on that line. Later he was conductor on a train running from Boston to Springfield for five years, and when the Old Colony Railroad was built from Boston to Plymouth, he he was induced to join the latter road by a friend who was superintendent. His connection therewith continued five years, during which time Daniel Webster was often one of the passengers. After a vacation of a year he was induced to go to Laporte, Indiana, on the Michigan Southern Railroad, and was given the position of assistant superintendent in the year in which the road was opened. He had charge of the division from Chicago to White Pigeon, Michigan, and of the shops at Laporte, continuing in that position until 1854, during which time

many improvements were made on the road and in connection with the administration of its business affairs. In 1854 he left Laporte, owing to the persuasion of George Bliss, of Springfield, a director of the Michigan Southern, who was also interested in the Chicago and Mississippi road. The following morning he assumed his duties under the title of train master. The company with which he was now connected had run the second train from Joliet to this city. The line extended from Joliet to Alton, and the road was built by Henry Dwight, a New York capitalist, who lost his fortune in this venture. After a year R. P. Morgan, Mr. Moore's superior officer, resigned, and the latter was appointed general superintendent by Mr. Dwight, of what is now the Chicago & Alton road. When Mr. Dwight failed, owing all the employes and many others, Governor Matteson, who was a large creditor, was elected president, and under his administration and during the superintendency of Mr. Moore the road was completed from Joliet to Chicago, and from Alton to East St. Louis, thus affording good terminals. T. B. Blackstone, who is now president of the road, was then the civil engineer, and run the line from Joliet to Chicago. Under his direction this road has gained its present high standing and reliability. Mr. Moore continued as general superintendent until about the time it passed from the hands of Governor Matteson in 1859.

In the meantime he had made extensive investments in Bloomington real estate, which was rapidly increasing in value, and at the time he resigned he also owned three lumber yards, located in Shirley, McLean and Bloomington. He also located the Shirley and McLean stations on the Alton line, and in that vicinity owns considerable

land. He has prospered in his lumber and real estate business, his sound judgment enabling him to make judicious investments which have brought him excellent financial returns. At one time he owned the ground upon which the new Coliseum now stands. After a time he largely sold his property outside the city and invested his capital in various enterprises here. In 1869 he purchased the street car line, extending from Grove street to Normal, and conducted under the name of the Bloomington & Normal Horse Railway Company. He extended the line to the railroad depot, built the Chestnut street branch, the West Washington street branch to the Union depot, the East Front street branch crossing the Illinois Central Railroad at Towanda avenue, and had the franchise to build to Miller street and the ties and iron to be used in the construction thereof, when he sold the entire line to John Graham, having in the meantime increased the length of the line from two and a half to nearly nine miles.

For many years Mr. Moore continued to be one of the most extensive real estate dealers in the city. In the days of state banks he was president of the Bank of Bloomington, which was started with fifty thousand dollars in bonds of the state of Illinois. He was one of the incorporators and the first president, but later sold his interest to Isaac Funk, and the bank is still conducted under the name of the First National. In politics he has always been a Republican, but has had neither time nor inclination for public office.

In May, 1848, Mr. Moore married Miss Nancy B. Washburne, of Plymouth, Massachusetts, a direct descendant of Governor Bradford, who came over in the Mayflower, and a daughter of John Washburne. For

fifty years they have traveled life's journey together and in 1898 celebrated their golden wedding. They had two children. Thomas, who was born in 1856, was burned in the Chattanooga Hotel, in 1888; and Mary is now the wife of Edward E. Maxwell, of Chicago, by whom she has one child, Augustus Moore. Mr. Maxwell is manager of the large wall paper establishment of S. A. Maxwell & Company. Mr. and Mrs. Moore have one of the most pleasant homes in the city. It is situated on North Main street and is surrounded by a large lawn of two and a half acres. The name of Mr. Moore is inseparably connected with the development of Bloomington and this section of the state. His business interests have not only been of individual benefit but have promoted the general prosperity. Years of ceaseless activity in the industrial world have brought him wealth, and now in his declining days he is enjoying the well-earned fruits of his former toil.

**JOHN B. LENNON.**—There are in every community men of great force of character and exceptional ability who, by reason of their capacity for leadership, become recognized as foremost citizens, and bear a most important part in the development and progress of their own locality or the state and nation. Such a man is Mr. Lennon, the well-known secretary of the Journeymen Tailors' Union of America and the treasurer of the American Federation of Labor.

Mr. Lennon was born in White Oak Springs, Lafayette county, Wisconsin, October 12, 1849, a son of John Alexander and Elizabeth Fletcher (Brown) Lennon. The ancestral home of the Lennon family

was near Manchester, England, and there our subject's grandfather, James Lennon, a machine woodworker, spent his entire life. The father was born at Manchester, October 30, 1817, and learned the tailor's trade as an apprentice in London. At the age of nineteen he came to the United States, and after spending a year in New York City, went to Buffalo, remaining there a short time. He then came to Illinois, stopping at Chicago in 1839 when the western metropolis was a small hamlet on a wet prairie, and in 1840 he located in Warsaw, this state, though he worked at his trade in Keokuk, Iowa, much of the time. In Warsaw he was married, in September, 1844, and continued to work as a journeyman in that locality until 1845, when he went to the lead mines of Wisconsin. He was engaged in lead mining there until 1851, in which year he removed to Hannibal, Missouri, making his home there until the breaking out of the Civil war. Being a strong abolitionist and Union man, he enlisted in Company I, Third Missouri Cavalry, which was assigned to the Army of the West. He participated in the siege of Vicksburg and in the Arkansas and Red river expeditions, and when mustered out at the end of the war was serving as first major of his regiment. He was in active service during the entire time with the exception of about thirty days when suffering from a wound. Returning to Hannibal, Missouri, he engaged in merchant tailoring at that place until 1870, when he removed to Denver, Colorado, and continued the same business there. He took great interest in the State Soldiers' Home in that state, was the prime mover in building it, and when it was completed, in recognition of his effective work he was appointed its first commander by the gov-

ernor. He resigned the position at the end of four years on account of advancing age, but he still continued to do merchant tailoring, having the leading business in his line in Denver. He was one of its best known citizens and one of the most prominent old soldiers in the state. He served as commander of the State Post and chairman of the relief work in Denver for twenty years, was an active member of the Masonic fraternity for fifty-three years, and was an active and influential member of the Republican party. He died in September, 1897, honored and respected by all who knew him. He left four children, namely: Mary Elizabeth, wife of Theodore Hutchinson, of Colorado; John B., our subject; Minnie, wife of Frank Van Horn, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Kate, wife of Dr. W. H. Sharpley, of Denver. The mother is also a resident of Denver, and is a faithful member of the Congregational church, both parents having united with that denomination about 1848, and the father served as deacon from 1872 until his death. Mrs. Lennon was born February 4, 1823, and is the youngest child of her father by his second wife. She is one of only about twelve daughters of Revolutionary soldiers now living, and is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Her father, Lieutenant Samuel Brown, fought at the battles of Bunker Hill, Lexington and Quebec, and was taken prisoner at the last named place. After his exchange he served on the staff of General Lafayette. The Brown family was founded in Massachusetts by Nicholas Brown about 1631, and there Lieutenant Brown made his home until 1794, when he emigrated to Ohio, becoming one of the very early pioneers of St. Clairsville, Belmont county,



where he died in 1828. Mrs. Lennon was born there.

John B. Lennon was but two years old when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Hannibal, Missouri, and as that was a slave state at that time public schools were very few and his education was therefore limited. Before he was eleven years of age he began to learn the tailor's trade, working five or six months until his father entered the army. During the war the family removed to the little town of Payson, Adams county, Illinois, where he attended school during the winter and assisted in the farm work through the summer season. After the return of the father, the family again went to Hannibal, where our subject worked at his trade and attended school occasionally until eighteen years of age. He then entered a commercial college at Oberlin, Ohio, where he pursued his studies for seven months, which ended his school days.

Subsequently Mr. Lennon worked at his trade in Hannibal and Denver, and on the 5th of April, 1871, he was united in marriage with Miss Juna J. Allen, a daughter of Frederick C. Allen, of the former city. They now have one son, John Frederick. For three years they made their home in Denver, and then removed to Evanston, Wyoming, where Mr. Lennon engaged in merchant tailoring for a time. Returning to Denver, he worked as a journeyman in that city, and in February, 1871, he joined the Tailors Union on its organization in that city, since which time he has been one of its most active and prominent workers. In the fall of 1883 the present International Tailors Union was organized by five local unions, all of which were in eastern cities, and the Denver union affiliated with them

in a convention held in Chicago in 1884, our subject serving as a delegate. He was elected a member of the general executive board, and when a delegate to the convention held in Baltimore in 1885, he was re-elected to that position. In 1886 at the convention held in New York City, it was decided to elect a general secretary who should devote his entire time to the service of the organization and be paid a salary, and Mr. Lennon was chosen for that responsible position, which he has since so creditably and satisfactorily filled, being re-elected at each succeeding election. At the convention of 1886 it was also decided to establish a paper devoted to the interests of the organization of the craft, the general secretary to be editor and manager, and in October of that year the paper made its first appearance, since which time it has been issued monthly and its circulation now reaches twenty thousand, it being taken in all the principal cities and towns in the United States and Canada.

When Mr. Lennon assumed the secretaryship of the Journeyman Tailors' Union of America it consisted of only fourteen local branches with twenty-four hundred members, but at present it represents two hundred and seventy-five local branches and sixteen thousand and five hundred members, which shows the large amount of work that has been done. The income of the organization the first year he was secretary amounted to only three thousand dollars, but that of the year ending July 1, 1898, was one hundred and twenty thousand. The tailors' organization, as a part of the great American labor movement, joined what is known as the American Federation of Labor, a federation of all the national and international trade unions of North America, and to



all the annual conventions of that body Mr. Lennon has been a delegate, representing the tailors' organization since 1887. In 1888, he was elected treasurer of the federation and a member of the executive council, and has been annually re-elected to the same positions.

When elected general secretary of the Tailors' Union, Mr. Lennon moved from Denver to New York City, which remained headquarters and his residence until January 1, 1895, when the headquarters were changed to Bloomington, Illinois, and he came here to live. He has always taken an active part not only in the labor movements but in social reforms of all kinds that would benefit the people. In his capacity of general secretary of the Tailors' Union, he has traveled through every state of the Union and the province of Canada, and has visited nearly all cities of note in North America. His services have been of inestimable value to the labor unions all over the country, and he is held in high regard by all who have the pleasure of his acquaintance. He is a member of Bloomington Lodge, No. 43, F. & A. M., of which he is now senior warden, and belongs to the Chapter and Council, and is also a member of DeMolay Commandery. K. T.

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**CAPTAIN HENRY AUGUSTINE** is a representative and enterprising citizen of Normal, and one of the most prominent and practical nursery men of the state. He was born in Lancaster, Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, July 25, 1840, and is a son of John A. and Anna (Miller) Augustine, who were natives of Wittenberg, Germany, and Lancaster, Pennsylvania, respectively. The former was an agriculturist, and came

to this country when a boy. He came to Canton, Illinois, in 1857, where his death occurred eleven years later. His family consisted of twelve children, eight of whom are living. Henry, the subject of this review, was the eighth child and was reared and educated in the town of his birth. He came to Illinois with his parents in 1857, where he followed his chosen vocation, agriculture. He served throughout the Civil war, enlisting in Company A, Fifty-fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, on the 3d of August, 1861, being enrolled as a sergeant. His courage in the face of danger, and his promptness in the discharge of duty, soon brought him to the notice of his superior officers, and on August 1, of the following year, he was promoted to the second lieutenancy, and two months later to the first lieutenancy. On the 27th of June, 1864, he was commissioned captain, and the same year organized Company I, Fifty-first Illinois Volunteer Infantry, serving his country until November, 1865, when he was mustered out of service. His army life has been full of events, startling and tragic, and to give a minute account to them would take more space than is allotted to us in this volume. Suffice it is to say that he participated in thirty-two hard-fought and well-contested battles, and was one hundred ninety-six days under fire of the enemy. Shiloh was one of the several contests through which he passed, his regiment losing fifty-one per cent of the men engaged in the battle. His regiment marched eleven thousand, nine hundred sixty-five miles, during the service, losing one hundred eight men, and three hundred thirty-three wounded in battle. Two of his brothers were killed during the war, both of whom he buried on the field of battle. One brother, Michael, was attached to the One

Hundred Third Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was killed during the battle of Missionary Ridge, and the other, J. M., was lieutenant-colonel of the Fifty-fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, of which our Henry was a member.

Upon his discharge from the service, our subject was engaged in the drug business until 1870, when failing health compelled him to abandon it for a vocation which brought him more in contact with nature in the primitive state. He removed to Pontiac, Livingston county, Illinois, where he was engaged in the farming and nursery business for six years, and at the end of that time came to Normal, giving his entire time and attention to the nursery and fruit business. Under the direction of his well-disciplined mind, and guided by the wisdom that comes from experience, Mr. Augustine has built up a very extensive and flourishing business, his shipments reaching France, Germany, England, Scotland, New Zealand and South America. He handles all kinds of fruits, flowers and ornamental trees, and has introduced that fine specimen of the pear called the Sudduth, which is attracting the attention of fruit-growers and fanciers. He is a man of large experience in horticulture, whose services and council are sought all over the state. He was superintendent of the fruit exhibit for the state of Illinois, at the Columbian Exposition, in 1892, and was president of the National Nurserymen's Society, also president of the State Horticulture Society. His services are in constant demand at all the meetings of the Farmers' Institutes, and also at the horticultural societies as a lecturer.

In February, 1870, our subject was united in marriage to Miss Maggie E. Gapen, who has given him one child, Archie, a bright

young man, who assists his father to the management of his extensive business. Mr. Augustine is a man of much benevolence, and is much interested in a number of charitable institutions. He has been identified with the Illinois Children's Home and Aid Society for sixteen years, and is now one of its directors. He has been president of the State Sunday School Association for some time. He is a prominent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and has been its Sunday School superintendent for sixteen years. He is an honored member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and has several times held responsible offices. Mr. Augustine possesses a cordial and courteous manner, and is one of the most popular men of Normal with the young people, who has the full confidence of his fellow-citizens, the result of an honorable and upright career.

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**B**YRON R. BURKE, a prominent representative of the agricultural interests of McLean county, Illinois, now owns and operates a fine farm of three hundred acres in Old Town township, upon which the greater part of his life has been spent. He is a native, however, of New York, born in Watertown, Jefferson county, January 5, 1857, and is a son of Samuel W. and Hulda E. (Burke) Burke, who, although bearing the same name, were not related prior to their marriage. The father was born near Alexander Bay, New York, where he was reared in the usual manner of farmer boys of his day, remaining at home until he attained his majority. He was one of the "forty-niners" who went to California in search of gold, and while on the Pacific slope he met with fair success. With his two partners, he built the first house in

Placerville, California, and after digging gold for about a year, they opened a general store at that place, which they conducted with remarkable success from 1851 until 1856. Having accumulated considerable capital, Mr. Burke returned to Watertown, New York, in 1856, and continued to make his home there for some time. There he was united in marriage with Hulda E. Burke, who was born in Indiana, but as her parents died during her childhood, she was reared by her grandparents in Watertown, New York. After his marriage, Mr. Burke purchased a farm in his native state and engaged in agricultural pursuits there until the spring of 1866, when he removed to McLean county, Illinois. He purchased a tract of land on section 3, Old Town township, which he transformed into a good farm, and in connection with agricultural pursuits also engaged in business as a capitalist. Selling his farm, he finally removed to Bloomington, but a few years later bought the property now owned by our subject, and here engaged in general farming and stock raising until his death, which occurred October 30, 1884. He left a widow and six children, of whom our subject is the oldest, the others being May, now Mrs. J. D. Hagan, of Mansville, N. Y.; Charles, a physician of Atlanta, Illinois; Sada, wife of C. W. Dooley, of Bloomington; Reed, a farmer of Mexico, Missouri; and Clara, wife of Frank Parritt, a jeweler, of Bloomington. The mother is still living, and though she makes her home in Bloomington, she spends considerable time in travel.

Byron R. Burke was educated in the public schools of McLean county and of Bloomington, and remained upon the home farm with his father until his marriage, which was celebrated January 28, 1880,

Miss Blanche Bovard, a native of Ohio, becoming his wife. Her parents died when she was quite young, and she lived with her brothers in this county prior to her marriage. The children born of this union are Mabel, Ray, Earle, Edna, Hulda and Clara.

After his marriage, Mr. Burke rented the home farm until his father's death, when he purchased the interest of the other heirs, and has continued to reside thereon up to the present time. He is a most thorough and skillful farmer, and has met with excellent success in his life work. In connection with general farming he devotes considerable attention to the feeding of stock, and this branch of his business has also proved quite profitable. Though he usually supports the Democratic party by his ballot, he is somewhat independent in politics, and as a friend of our public school system he has most efficiently served as school director in his district for twelve years.

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**A**DDISON LEROY BARKER, whose home is at 908 West Washington street, Bloomington, is a native of Ohio, having been born in New Haven, Hanover county, on the 18th of April, 1852, and is a son of Reuben and Julia Ann (Brubaker) Barker. The former was a real estate dealer of Sandusky, Ohio, and was probably a native of that city. Little is known of him, however, as both he and his wife died of cholera when our subject was an infant of two years. After the death of his parents, our subject lived with Andrew Brubaker, an uncle, and a farmer of New Haven, Ohio, until the opening of the Civil war. Though but fourteen years of age, he went out with the Thirty-second Ohio Infantry, as drum-



mer boy, but was transferred and sent home, as he was not of age. He then went out with the regiment of Colonel Wilson, of Mansfield, Ohio, remaining with them two years before he was permitted to enlist in the regular service, and at the expiration of that time he enlisted with the Third Ohio Cavalry. During the two years he was with General Wilson, he was in all the heaviest battles with the Army of the Potomac, Shiloh, etc. He was with the Third Ohio Cavalry until the close of the war, and although an enlisted man for but three years, yet he was at the front throughout the entire war.

After being mustered out of the service, at Columbus, in 1865, our subject went to Joliet, where he was, for a few weeks, a fireman on a cut-off of the Michigan Central railroad. He was next employed as fireman on the Chicago & Alton railroad for three years, and was then made switch engineer, and extra runner from Joliet to Bloomington and Chicago, running a freight engine for some years. In 1884 Mr. Barker removed to Bloomington and has run passenger engines most of the time since. In recent years he has run limited trains entirely, and principally between Bloomington and St. Louis. He has been over the road several thousand times, and has never yet been laid off for a day, which is a very remarkable record. During all his experience in railroading Mr. Baker has met with but two bad accidents. At one time, while going at the rate of fifty miles an hour with a special train, a pay car, he collided with a work train, which was standing in a cut, and only saved himself by leaping from the cab. He was exonerated from blame, as he had previously received instructions that the road was clear. An-

other time, near Chicago, the engine tipped over, our subject sustaining very severe injuries. When Mr. Barker first entered railroad life the largest engines then in use weighed from thirty to forty tons, and the time required to run from Bloomington to St. Louis was six hours. Now the run is made in three hours and forty minutes, and engines weighing from eighty to ninety tons are used entirely. He has been under a large number of men and administrators of the road, from Mr. Jackman, master mechanic, down, and with one exception is the oldest employe of the road, having served honorably and faithfully for over thirty-five years.

Our subject is a member of Evergreen City Lodge, No. 365, I. O. O. F., and is also a member of the organization, Knights of Pythias, but owing to the fact that he is continually on the road, has not held office. On the 8th of December, 1892, he was united in marriage to Miss Amanda Gaffron, a daughter of Phillip Williams, who for many years was proprietor of a grocery on Market street. Mr. Barker built his residence on Washington street, in 1894. It is a refined and cheerful home, containing all the modern improvements and conveniences, and its hospitable doors are always open to the many friends and acquaintances of Mr. and Mrs. Barker.

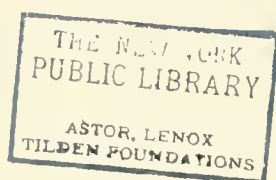
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REV. GEORGE EDWIN SCRIMGER,  
D. D. Only the history of the good and great comes down to us through the ages. The true religion has been the strongest influence known to man through all time, while the many false doctrines that have sprung up have flourished only for a day and then vanished. More potent at the





GEORGE EDWIN SCRIMGER, D. D.



present than at any period in the world's history are the work and influence of Christianity, and among those who are devoting their lives to its inculcation among men is Dr. Scrimger, the honored pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal church of Bloomington. He is one of the leading ministers of that denomination in Illinois, and his life is a source of inspiration and encouragement to all who know him.

The Doctor was born in a log cabin, near Columbus, Ohio, November 29, 1849, a son of Thomas E. and Margaret R. (McCracken) Scrimger. The father was born in Virginia, where the family made their home for many years and were slave holders, but he was a strong Abolitionist. The family was founded in this country by two brothers, natives of Scotland, one of whom settled in Canada, the other in Virginia. They had espoused the cause of the pretender and for that offense lost all their property and were practically banished from their native land. The grandfather of our subject, James Scrimger, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. The father is a farmer by occupation, and in the midst of the forests of Ohio cleared and improved a farm. About 1853 he brought his family to Lexington, McLean county, Illinois, and there developed a good farm of one hundred and sixty acres on which he still lives at the age of eighty-one years, his birth having occurred July 2, 1818. He has been quite a prominent man in his community, has served as supervisor and school director, and is held in high regard by all who know him. An earnest, consistent Christian, he has long been an active worker in the Methodist Episcopal church, has served as class leader, steward and superintendent of the Sunday-school, and his home has always been the

stopping place of the ministers. There have been about five or six Methodist Episcopal ministers reared in that locality. The mother of our subject, who was also a faithful member of that denomination, was born at Hilliards, Franklin county, Ohio, in January 1, 1817, and was a daughter of Henry McCracken, of Scotch-Irish descent, who came to Lexington, Illinois, with the Scrimger family, and was a farmer by occupation. She died January 28, 1862, at the age of forty-five years.

Reared on the home farm in this county, Dr. Scrimger attended the public schools of Selma, and for five years was a student in Wesleyan University, where he was graduated with the degree of A. B., in June, 1874, and two years later received the degree of A. M. Standing high in his class, he had the honor of being appointed by the faculty as a junior contestant and his essay received the prize. After his graduation he taught in the University and at the same time supplied the Wapella circuit as a local preacher. In the fall of 1875, he joined the conference and began a four years' course of reading. His first appointment was at Downs, McLean county, where he remained two years, being their first stationed pastor, and the congregation rapidly grew under his leadership. He was ordained a deacon in 1877 and took supernumerary relation. He then pursued a three years' course at the Drew Theological Seminary at Madison, New Jersey, and supported himself by supplying a small church near by. During his last summer there he supplied the pulpit of the Franklin Square Independent Methodist church, and on the death of the regular minister at that time, he was called to the pastorate, but declined to accept, preferring to keep in the regular work. By Drew

Seminary he was granted the degree of B. D. In the fall of 1880 he took charge of a church at Havana, Illinois, where he remained for two years, and then accepted the pastorate of the Second Methodist Episcopal church of Springfield and during his three years there met with excellent success in building up the membership.

On the 3d of February, 1885, Dr. Scrimger married Miss Emma Tracy, of New Orleans, a distant relative of ex-Secretary Tracy. Her father, Thomas G. Tracy, was a distinguished literary man of New Orleans and at one time the editor of the Republican; being a northern man by birth, but going south when young, he became identified with the growth of the Crescent City. He was sent South by the New York Tribune during the civil war as a war correspondent. His people were pioneers of New York state. He died while on a visit to his daughter, Mrs. Scrimger, in Danville, February 11, 1893. The children born to the Doctor and his wife are Ruth, Edwin Tracy, Paul and Margaret.

In 1885, Dr. Scrimger took charge of Trinity church, Quincy, and in the fall of 1887 was appointed to Grace church, Decatur, where he remained for four years, which period marked an important epoch in the growth of the church, both spiritually and financially. The church property was improved by steam heat and a pipe organ. In 1891 he was appointed presiding elder of the Danville district, and during his six years in that position his time was fully occupied as he had thirty-four charges under his direction. It was at this time, in 1892, that Illinois Wesleyan University conferred upon him the degree of D. D. In the fall of 1897 he was appointed to his present charge—the First Methodist Episcopal church of

Bloomington—and during the past year twelve thousand dollars were raised for the repair fund, and over one hundred added to the church, which now has a membership of over twelve hundred—the largest in the Illinois conference. Dr. Scrimger's work here is arduous as he has no assistant to help him. He often conducts from three to four funeral sermons a week, performs a large number of wedding ceremonies and has many calls to make. He is a man of thoughtful, earnest purpose, of strong intellectual endowments, of broad charity and kindly nature, and by all denominations as well as his own people, is held in the highest regard. At the last election of the general conference he was made first reserve delegate. Fraternally, he is a member of the blue lodge, chapter and council of the Masonic order, at Havana, and the commandery at Danville.

PROFESSOR DELMAR DUANE DARRAH, director of the Wesleyan School of Oratory, and a prominent citizen of Bloomington, is a native of Illinois, born in Tolono, Champaign county, July 15, 1868, and is a son of Dr. Alexander T. and Elizabeth H. (Fugate) Darrah, the former a native of Ohio, the latter of Pike county, Illinois. The maternal grandfather of our subject was born in Virginia. During his early life the father read medicine and graduated from Rush Medical College, Chicago, after which he located in Tolono and engaged in practice there until 1883. He then came to Bloomington, and remained one of the prominent and successful physicians of this place until called from this life September 4, 1889. He was also one of its leading and influential citizens and took an active and prominent part in public affairs. He



served as supervisor and was once candidate for mayor. The mother died in June, 1884, leaving three children: Delmar D., our subject; Nellie, now the wife of A. G. Lain, of Shirley; and Ada M.

Professor Darrah began his education in the public schools of Tolono, and after coming to Bloomington entered the Wesleyan University, where he was graduated in 1890 with the degree of Ph. B. He was a member of the Phi Delta Theta society. After his graduation he took a three-years' course in elocution, oratory and dramatic art under private teachers in Chicago and the east, and on his return to Bloomington established a school of oratory which is co-operative with the University, except that the board of trustees exercise supervision over all of the departments. The school now has an enrollment of from fifty to seventy-five pupils each year, and he is assisted in his labors by an able corps of instructors. A thorough and systematic course of instruction has been established, and the large attendance which the school has is sufficient evidence of the superiority of the work accomplished. It is the aim of the school to create expressive readers and efficient teachers and the studies pursued are physical culture, Delsarte and the principles of gesture, elocution, voice culture, study of emotion, rhetoric, English literature, etc. Professor Darrah ranks among the best readers and interpreters in the state, and has met with marked success in the conduct of his school.

On June 21, 1898, he was united in marriage with Miss Isabel Wetzell, of Bloomington, a daughter of Joseph Wetzell. They are both members of the First Presbyterian church, and the Professor is a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity. He is editor and proprietor of the Illi-

nois Free Mason, which was established by Owen Scott in 1885 and purchased by our subject in 1892, who finds the work both pleasant and profitable. It is the representative Masonic paper in the state and has a large circulation which is constantly increasing. Professor Darrah is one of the most influential members of Bloomington Lodge, No. 43, F. & A. M., of which he is both past and present master. He has also represented the lodge in the Grand Lodge of the state; has been deputy grand lecturer of the Grand Lodge; district deputy grand master for five years; and is now a member of the finance committee. He is also past high priest of Bloomington Chapter, No. 26, R. A. M.; has been a representative to the grand chapter; and was one of the grand lecturers in 1898. He has held office in Bloomington Council; is past commander of DeMolay Commandery, and has been a representative to the grand commandery; and is a member of the intermediate bodies to the Peoria Consistory.

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JAMES L. LOAR, a prominent and successful attorney of Bloomington, was born in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, January 24, 1864, and on the paternal side is of German descent. The family was founded in Virginia about the time of the Revolutionary war, and later one branch of the family, consisting of five brothers, came north. John Loar, the father of our subject, was born April 21, 1826, in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, where he grew to manhood and married Miss Maria White, a daughter of Israel White, who was also a representative of an old Pennsylvania family of German origin, his father being a res-

ident of the Keystone state. In March, 1868, John Loar came to McLean county, Illinois, and purchased the Walton place, ten miles south of Fairbury, and six miles and a half northeast of Colfax, being at that time the oldest and finest farm in this section. He was a prominent horseman, selling more fine horses than any other man in the county. He and his family have always been great lovers of the noble steed, and his horses carried off most of the premiums at the fairs where they were exhibited. He was a director of the Fairbury Fair, and also of the Belle Prairie Fair for twenty-two years, and was one of the founders and principal stockholders of the latter. He was also an officer of the Livingston County Mutual Insurance Company, which was one of the earliest corporations of the kind established. He was a successful and prosperous farmer and served as justice of the peace in his township for some time. Two years prior to his death he retired from active life and removed to Colfax.

On the celebration of his golden wedding in April, 1897, which was a notable event in the community, all of his eight living children were present, and also fourteen grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Two more grandchildren were born before his death. The wife and mother died June 14, 1898, and he passed away October 5, 1898, honored and respected by all who knew them. For half a century they were faithful members of the Christian church, and were among the early members of that church in their community. Their children were as follows: Thomas J., a resident of Colfax; David W., a druggist of McCook, Nebraska; Elizabeth L., wife of William Long, of Manson, Iowa; George F., a druggist of Lewiston, Illinois; Mrs. Emma F.

Gaddis, of Beaver City, Nebraska; James L., our subject; Ida B., wife of Sherman Williams, a farmer of Cropsey; and Arthur M., who lives on the old homestead.

James L. Loar acquired his early education in the country schools near his boyhood home, later engaged in teaching for two years in McLean county, and later was principal of the schools at Bluff City, Illinois. He attended the literary department of the Michigan University at Ann Arbor, and later the law department of the same institution, where he was graduated with the degree of LL. B. in June, 1887, and was admitted to the supreme court of Michigan. Going to Colby, Thomas county, Kansas, he opened an office, and was not long in building up a good practice. He was elected state's attorney in 1888 and again in 1890 for that county, and while serving in that office had charge of the prosecution of the celebrated "Bohemian Club" case under the prohibition laws of Kansas. This case was tried six times, twice in the justice courts, three times in the district court and once in the supreme court, resulting in a victory for the state. It is perhaps needless to say that the liquor interests were represented by the ablest counsel obtainable, and the case was considered the most stubbornly contested in northwestern Kansas. Mr. Loar also prosecuted one murder case and others of importance during his term and also conducted a good private practice. Resigning his position in 1891, he removed to Ogden, Utah, where he engaged in general practice until July, 1897, meeting with excellent success.

While a resident of Utah, Mr. Loar was twice state president of the State Sunday School Association and for five years superintendent of the Methodist Episcopal Sunday

School in Ogden, which he made the largest evangelical Sunday school in the state. He was also twice elected president of the State Epworth League Association, was chairman of the board of trustees most of the time, and attorney for the board of church extension for five years. For four years he also represented Bradstreet and other prominent mercantile agencies. While there his law library was destroyed by fire, but has since built up another fine one. He thoroughly understands the Mormon church, and worked hard to destroy its injurious influences.

On the 10th of August, 1892, Mr. Loar married Miss Mildred Wood, a daughter of Mrs. Sarah P. Wood, of Fredonia, Kansas. Her father, Harvey S. Wood, now deceased, was a soldier, all through the civil war serving as first lieutenant in Company E, Sixteenth Ohio Regular Volunteer Infantry. Two daughters have been born to our subject and his wife, namely: Constance and Romaine. In July, 1897, Mr. Loar brought his family to Bloomington where he has since successfully engaged in general practice, having accomplished more in two years than most lawyers do in a much greater length of time. Although not a criminal lawyer, he has tried a number of important cases along that line, and has had charge of a number of trial cases. He has ever met with marked success in jury trials, as he is not only a good judge of law, but, what is almost equally important, he is a good judge of men. It is these qualities, together with his great earnestness and ability as a speaker, that has brought to him success. Mr. Loar has prepared a very interesting lecture entitled "Modern Mormonism" which he has delivered with great success.

Socially, he is a member of the Modern

Woodmen of America and is now serving a second term as venerable consul of his lodge.

OLIVER R. SKINNER, the well-known director of the Wesleyan College of Music and a leader in musical circles in Bloomington, was born in Lake Zurich, Lake county, Illinois, February 7, 1864, and is a son of David and Mary C. (Ross) Skinner, natives of New York, who were born near Geneseo, as were also their parents. The mother was a descendant of Lord Ross, who came to this country in the Mayflower, and the father's ancestors also came to America in colonial days and assisted the colonies in their struggle for independence as soldiers of the Revolutionary war. In 1849, David Skinner, with two brothers, came to Lake county, Illinois, driving five thousand sheep across the country, and he purchased a tract of wild land, to the cultivation and improvement of which he devoted his energies until 1877, when he moved to Normal for the purpose of educating his children. He died in 1896, leaving three children. He was a supporter of the Republican party, and as a campaign speaker did much to promote its interests and insure its success. He was a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and was highly respected by all who knew him.

Mr. Skinner, of this review, began his education in the schools of his native county, and after the removal of the family to Normal was a student in the Normal school and the Wesleyan University. At an early age he also took up the study of music, and for some time was a pupil of Professor Stanley, of Evanston, and Professor Frank Mueller. In 1884 he went to Berlin, Prus-



sia, and entered the middle classes of the Kullak "Neue Akademie der Tonkunst," where he took up the study of piano under Professors Eckhoff, Rhenius and Jean Vogt; harmony under Heinrich Throm; and organ under the noted concert player, Franz Grunicke. At the end of the first year he entered the higher classes and pursued his studies under Franz Kullak, Albert Becker and Franz Grunicke. During that year he appeared in several concerts and won the praise of critical Berlin audiences. During the first summer vacation he studied Henselt's and Tausig's methods with Heinrich Throm, a pupil of these masters, and also began the study of the higher branches of theory and composition with Albert Becker, the composer of the Hallelujah cantata, which was sung at one of the great concerts given at the World's Fair, and the director of the noted cathedral choir in Berlin. For over two years Mr. Skinner earnestly pursued his studies under these masters, and during the second summer's vacation he mastered Bussler's Harmony in order acquire greater theoretical technique.

Returning to his home in the fall of 1887, Mr. Skinner founded the Bloomington Conservatory of Music, which met with excellent success and numbered at the end of the second year over two hundred and fifty pupils. At that time Mr. Skinner and John R. Gray decided to consolidate the Bloomington Conservatory and the Illinois College of Music, and the school thus formed has since been known as the Wesleyan College of Music, with which Mr. Skinner has been connected for the past nine years. As a teacher he stands high in the public opinion, which fact is attested by his long list of talented pupils. The school is the largest of its kind in central Illinois and now

has an attendance of over six hundred, there being but one or two musical colleges larger in Chicago. The college has eight most competent and thorough teachers, and many of its graduates are now teaching in Chicago, Jacksonville and other places, and a number have continued their studies in Europe. During the past five years Mr. Skinner has given special training in a course of gymnastics for the hand, arm and fingers, and his work in this line has been followed by such wonderful results in the way of giving the student self-control, perfect relaxation as well as tension where needed in solving the problem of execution, that it is now introduced into the general course of the college. He has played at state teacher associations with pronounced success, and has given concerts at frequent intervals in addition to his daily duties as a teacher. He is a writer of more than ordinary ability, and is a regular contributor to leading musical journals. As a composer and editor he also ranks high among young writers, and his "Sketches" have won favorable comment from such men as Liebling, Presser, Sherwood, Gleason and other critics. During the past year he has done considerable revising and editing standard teaching pieces for eastern publishers. For seven or eight years he was organist at the First Methodist Episcopal church of Bloomington, and now holds that position in the Christian church. He organized and carried on the Mendelssohn Male Chorus for a number of years.

On the 17th of August, 1896, Mr. Skinner was united in marriage with Miss Farie Stevick, of Naperville, Illinois. Mrs. Skinner is a very talented soprano and a most successful teacher, having for the past three years been principal of the vocal department of the Wesleyan College of Music.



She is eminently qualified to impart the most thorough and artistic instruction to her pupils, and has enrolled more students in the vocal department than any previous teacher. For several years she was a student at the Cincinnati Conservatory, and for three years pursued her studies with the noted Italian master, Signor Carpi, of the Chicago Conservatory—now of Milan, Italy. Her voice has a phenomenal compass, extending to E above high C, and is throughout pure and melodious in quality. She possesses a pleasing personality and the gift of enthusing her pupils. She is now soloist and leader of the choir of the Christian church, though she and her husband hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, and in social as well as musical circles they occupy an enviable position.

**E**LMER J. ZEITERS, a leading and representative citizen of Dale township, has made his home in McLean county, Illinois, since the 18th of March, 1882, and has been actively identified with its agricultural interests, owning and operating at present a fine farm of one hundred and twenty acres. He was born July 7, 1864, in Hummelstown, Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, of which place his parents, Jacob and Matilda (Bomgardner) Zeiters, were also natives, as was also the paternal grandfather, George Zeiters, who was born on the same farm where the birth of our subject and his father occurred. The family was originally from Germany and were pioneers of Dauphin county. There the father of our subject engaged in farming and was one of the well-to-do and prominent citizens of his community. On leaving his native state and coming west in 1883, he first lo-

cated in Dry Grove township, McLean county, Illinois, and after living there two years removed to Funks Grove township, where he followed his chosen occupation, that of a farmer. His next home was in Montgomery township, Ford county, Illinois, but is now living in Calhoun county, Iowa, where he has purchased a farm. His wife still survives, and with them resides their oldest son, George, while our subject and their only daughter, Mrs. Lizzie Burkhardt, live in this county, the latter being a resident of Dry Grove township.

Elmer J. Zeiters acquired his literary education in the public schools of Pennsylvania, and remained with his father until he attained his majority, when he started out in life for himself as an agriculturist. On the 22d of December, 1886, he married Miss Lizzie Sholty, a sister of Jacob Sholty, who is represented on another page of this volume. To them have been born five children, of whom four are now living: Harry, Ethel, Estella and Orville.

For one year after his marriage, Mr. Zeiters rented the farm which he now owns and then purchased the place. It is one of the richest and most productive farms in the county, and he has refused ninety dollars an acre for it. He engaged quite successfully in general farming and stock-raising until 1897, when he removed to Covell and embarked in business as a general merchant and dealer in grain and coal, having charge of the entire business of the village with the exception of the blacksmithing. He built up an excellent trade and also served as postmaster of the place, but preferring farm life, he sold his business interests there, resigned his office and returned to the farm in the spring of 1899. He has remodeled his residence, transforming it

into a fine country home, and is now successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits. He takes quite an active interest in educational affairs, and in 1899 was elected school trustee of his district, which office he is now most creditably filling. Although a member of the Lutheran church, he attends and gives his support to the Methodist Episcopal church of Covell, in which his wife holds membership. He is widely and favorably known in both business and social circles, and has won the confidence and respect of all with whom he has come in contact.

**J**EHU LITTLE, M. D. The world has little use for the misanthrope. The universal truth of brotherhood is widely recognized, also that he serves God best who serves his fellow men. There is no profession or line of business that calls for greater self-sacrifice or more devoted attention than the medical profession, and the successful physician is he who, through love of his fellow men, gives his time and attention to the relief of human suffering. Dr. Little is one of the ablest representatives of this noble calling in Bloomington, and is to-day serving as pension examiner.

The Doctor was born in Washington county, Indiana, October 6, 1833, and is a son of Richard and Sarah (Hughes) Little, also natives of that county, where they were reared and married. Our subject's paternal great-grandfather was a native of Virginia, but the grandfather, Jehu Little, was born in Kentucky and was a pioneer of Washington county, Indiana, locating twelve miles from Salem. The great-grandfather was a soldier of the Revolutionary war. The mother, who was a faithful member of the Baptist church, died in her native county, and in 1842 the father removed to Clark county, Illinois, where he purchased a farm and made his home until called to his final rest. He held membership in the

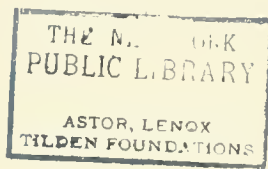
Protestant Methodist church, and was held in high esteem by all who knew him.

Dr. Little is one of a family of five children. Calvin Little, his only brother, died April 30, 1899, at Kirksville, Missouri, from injuries received in the cyclone at that place three days before. Age, sixty-seven and a half years. Maria Goldsby, his oldest sister, died at her home in Adair county, Missouri, in 1898. Age, seventy-two years. Mary Boyer, his youngest sister, died at her home in Edgar county, Illinois, July 14, 1899. Age, sixty-three years. His other sister, Mrs. Marenda Hyden, resides in Edgar county, Illinois. She is seventy years of age. He cherished a warm affection for his brother and sisters.

Dr. Little acquired his early education in the schools of Clark county, later attending Marshall College, of Marshall, Illinois, and the Normal University, of Normal, Illinois. In the meantime he taught school for four years, and in August, 1861, after a most thorough and severe competitive examination by the board of education, he was appointed principal of a school in Bloomington for one year. He was a student at the Normal University two years and two terms, lacking but one term and one study of graduating, and he would have graduated had he not gone into the Union army. October 1, 1861, he resigned his school and enlisted as hospital steward in the 33d Illinois Volunteers, known as the Normal Regiment, and on January 3, 1862, he was detailed as brigade hospital steward at Ironton, Missouri. On the 6th of October of the same year he was appointed hospital steward in the Regular army, United States of America, by the secretary of war, Edward M. Stanton, and assigned to duty at the large United States hospital in Chicago, where he had a great deal of power. On the 12th of January, 1863, he was commissioned assistant surgeon of the Twenty-fourth Missouri Volunteer Infantry by Governor Gamble, of Missouri, and joined the regiment at West Plains, that state, February 7, remaining



JEHU LITTLE, M. D.





with it until it was mustered out at the expiration of its term of enlistment, in October, 1864, at St. Louis, Missouri. He was with the regiment in the field in southeastern Missouri, western Kentucky, Tennessee and Louisiana, and in the celebrated Red river campaign under Banks; was with General Sherman's command through Mississippi from Vicksburg to Meridian, and then went to southern Tennessee and northern Mississippi under General A. J. Smith, of the Third Division, Sixteenth Army Corps. Dr. Little always displayed great heroism in the presence of great danger, and in 1864, right after the battle of Tupelo, Mississippi, he volunteered to remain with the wounded of the army, knowing well that he would be captured by the enemy, and he was the only surgeon who would make the sacrifice. Ten days after being taken prisoner he was first sent with the wounded to the Federal hospital at Mobile, then, with three other captured surgeons and a colonel, he was sent to Meridian, Mississippi, from there to the noted prison in Cahaba, Alabama, and thence to Montgomery, Alabama, and on to Libby prison, Richmond, Virginia, where, with three hundred and fifty others, he was finally released September 1, 1864, after nearly two months' imprisonment. He was then sent to Annapolis and later to Washington, District of Columbia, where he was granted a furlough of one month, a part of which he spent in Bloomington. The privations and hardships endured and suffered while he was held as a prisoner injured his physical health more than the three years' previous service in our army. He weighed one hundred and seventy-five pounds when he fell into the Confederates' hands, and when released he weighed one hundred and twenty-nine pounds and was very weak and feeble. In fact he has been an invalid ever since. On the 1st of October he rejoined his regiment at Jefferson barracks, St. Louis, and with it went in pursuit of Price, who had invaded Missouri with the intention of capturing St. Louis. After driving that rebel general from the state, the regi-

ment was mustered out October 28, 1864, on the expiration of the term of enlistment. At four different times during his service Dr. Little was in charge of smallpox hospitals located at Ironton, Missouri; Union City, Tennessee; New Madrid, Missouri, and Alexandria, Louisiana, and for a time had charge of the government smallpox hospital at Vicksburg. In 1863, when serving as surgeon of the Fourth Missouri Cavalry, he accompanied Colonel George E. Waring on his perilous expedition after Forrest in Kentucky and Tennessee, being the only surgeon with the command. In southwestern Missouri, when facing a large force, the commander called for a volunteer to ride sixty miles in the night to Ironton for re-enforcements. The Doctor came forward and offered his services, and taking a horse rode there and back in safety, though surrounded on all sides by bushwhackers. This was only one of many times when he displayed great bravery and came to the assistance of his comrades. After being mustered out with the Twenty-fourth Missouri Volunteer Infantry, Dr. Little went to New York City and attended a course of lectures at the Bellevue Hospital Medical College, and a spring term in the Long Island Hospital Medical College, graduating June 24, 1865. He was then examined by the army medical examining board in New York and commissioned assistant surgeon of the One Hundred and Tenth United States Colored Infantry, which he joined September 9, 1865, at Nashville, Tennessee, and with which he remained until February 6, 1866, when he was mustered out at Huntsville, Alabama.

Dr. Little had commenced the study of medicine before entering the army, having attended medical clinics and lectures in Chicago. On his return from the army he opened an office for the practice of his chosen profession in Bloomington in February, 1866, but the following July removed to Leroy, where he did an extensive country practice for ten years. He returned to Bloomington in May, 1877, and has since been engaged in the general practice of medicine,

though giving special attention to the diseases of women and children. After selling out in Leroy, he went to Philadelphia, in January, 1877, and there took a post-graduate course in Jefferson Medical College and regularly graduated. He was not long in building up a good practice in Bloomington, which he still enjoys. He is a prominent member of the McLean County Medical Society, the Illinois State Medical Society, and the American Medical Association. He has been secretary and president of the first named and is now its treasurer, and has often read papers before the different societies, and has contributed many valuable articles to medical journals. He is now secretary of the United States board of pension examiners appointed by the commissioner of pensions.

On the 7th of February, 1867, Dr. Little was united in marriage with Miss Helen M. Humiston, of Abingdon, Knox county, Illinois, who was educated at Galesburg, and to them have been born four children, namely: Mary A., wife of Louis W. Sensenny, of Chatham; Richard H., who for the past four years has been connected with the Chicago Tribune, and who distinguished himself as its staff correspondent at Havana, Cuba, during the winter of 1898 '99; and who is now in the Philippine Islands and as the Tribune's staff correspondent; Willie, who died at the age of two years; and Lillian, who is at home. The Doctor attends the Unitarian church and is liberal in his religious views. His family are members of the First Methodist Episcopal church. For twenty-two years he has made his home at No. 606 East Taylor street.

Since the organization of the Republican party, Dr. Little has been one of its staunch supporters and was one of the organizers of the original Fourth Ward McKinley Club, in March, 1896, and was its president the last three months of the campaign of 1896; he organized the McLean county soldiers into the Union Veterans' Patriotic League, of Bloomington, in Au-

gust, 1896, and from the very start was its honored president. He is also an active and prominent member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and at different times has served as adjutant, surgeon and commander of the post in Bloomington. In 1895 he was elected medical director of the Department of Illinois for one term, has usually been a delegate to the department encampment, and was once a delegate to the national encampment. He is an active worker and secretary of the Illinois Association of Union Ex-Prisoners of War, and for twenty years has been a member of Bloomington Lodge, No. 43, F. & A. M. For almost a quarter of a century he has been numbered among the valued citizens of Bloomington who have been devoted to the public welfare. He has manifested the same loyalty in days of peace as in days of war, and all who know him have for him the highest regard.

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REV. MILTON L. HANEY, who makes his home in the city of Normal, is one of the most successful evangelists in the Methodist Episcopal church, and is not only a preacher of the gospel of rare power, but he has a military record of which any man might well be proud. He was born in Savannah, Richland county, Ohio, January 23, 1825, and is the son of Rev. James and Mary (Bevans) Haney, his father being a native of Ireland, who came to this country a youth of sixteen years, and located first in Pennsylvania, where he was married and raised a family by his first wife, and later moved to Ohio, where after death of first wife he married the mother of our subject, where he engaged for a time in farming, and in local preaching. While in Pennsylvania, feeling that he was called of God, he entered the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal church, and became a minister of

prominence and ability, devoting nearly all his life to his chosen work, his field of labor being principally in the states of Ohio and Illinois. During the war of 1812 he served his adopted country faithfully and well, and while residing in Ohio served for two years in the state legislature. In 1834 he removed with his family to Illinois and located in Fulton county, and in this state the remainder of his life was spent, dying at the age of eighty years. He was a good man in every respect, active in every good and righteous cause, and lived a life of usefulness, a blessing to others as well as himself. By two marriages, he became the father of fourteen children, four of the number becoming prominent ministers in the Methodist Episcopal church, who have left the impress of their mind and individuality upon thousands, especially in the military tract of Illinois. Two of the four are yet living and actively engaged in preaching the gospel of the Son of God.

The subject of this sketch came to Illinois with his parents, in 1834, being at the time nine years of age. He received his early training and education in Fulton county, Illinois, completing his course in Plattsville, Wisconsin. His early life was spent on a farm, and in farming he continued to engage until 1846, when he felt a decided call to the ministry, and was soon ordained to the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal church, and until 1861 was actively engaged in preaching the gospel, serving as pastor of some of the most prominent churches of that denomination in the state.

At the outbreak of the Civil war he saw the necessity of defending the integrity of his country against its contemplated dissolution by the southern states of the union, and offering his services to the government,

was commissioned as captain of Company F, Fifty-fifth Illinois Infantry, and after five months' command of his company, he was commissioned chaplain of the regiment and served as such until near the expiration of his term of service, when he was commissioned as colonel of the veteran regiment, near the close of the war. January 1, 1865, he was honorably discharged. All through the war, and prior to being commissioned colonel, he showed himself every inch a soldier, as well as a true christian man. At the battle of Pittsburg Landing, when a portion of the Federal troops became panic stricken and retreated in confusion, although but a chaplain, he was the man of all the entire force to bring order out of confusion. He went from point to point on the scene of carnage importuning the men to be soldiers worthy of the cause they represented, and to show their courage by defending it like men. Whenever he found men enough to rally, he spoke to them in words of kindness, but with firmness and enthusiasm. The result was almost phenomenal—the men rallied, got together and defeated the enemy. It is said by some of the officers, high in rank, that they never heard such eloquence falling from the lips of man, as Chaplain Haney urged the dispirited soldiers to renewed action. He seemed to be truly inspired of God, and was in great dread of the Federal cause being defeated.

Another instance may be mentioned of the daring and bravery of the chaplain. At the battle of Atlanta, a portion of the Union forces were thrown into disorder and confusion caused by the death of General McPherson. Chaplain Haney jumped into the breach, rallied the retreating forces and took the enemy's position. For this meritorious achievement Congress voted him a gold



medal, which he honorably but humbly wears. As captain, chaplain and colonel, his men loved and trusted him. His humane treatment of his men in tent, on the march, in battle or in the hospital, endeared him to them, and herein laid his strength and influence over them. He commanded through respect and love.

On his discharge from the service in January, 1865, Colonel Haney re-entered the pulpit, and served as pastor for a short time, but seeing, as John Wesley did, a larger parish than that assigned him by the bishop, he became an evangelist, a calling that he has followed with wonderful success for the last twenty-two years, and it is estimated that no less than ten thousand souls have been turned to God through his agency. The widespread influence of this man of God will only be known in eternity, for like a pebble thrown in a body of water, its influence continually widens, and the result can never be measured.

On the 10th of July, 1849, Mr. Haney was united in marriage with Miss Mary C. Huntsinger, daughter of Peter and Ann (Holmes) Huntsinger, and by this union four children were born, only one of whom now survives, Conrad, who is engaged in the publishing business in Philadelphia. Although more than three score years have passed in the life of this man, he is yet active, and has the same love for souls that inspired him to first enter the service of the Master. He does not believe in man allowing his talents to rust, but believes in using them for the good of humanity and the glory of God. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and chaplain of his regimental society, and keeps in touch with the boys that wore the blue during the dark days from 1861 to 1865.

REV. GEORGE HASTINGS BURGESS, pastor of the First Congregational church of Normal, is one of the popular and rising ministers of the city. He was born in Cleveland, Ohio, December 14, 1857, and is the son of George and Mary F. (Barbour) Burgess, the former a native of New York, and the latter of Massachusetts. George Burgess was a man of refinement and culture, and was a graduate of the College of the City of New York. Although he studied law and theology, he never followed either as a profession, but spent the greater part of his eventful and useful life as an educator, being fitted by nature and education for that important profession. As a public man he held several offices of trust and responsibility, at one time being postmaster of West New Brighton, on Staten Island, New York. His good wife passed to her reward in January, 1893, while his death occurred in May of the same year. They were the parents of five children—Louis F., Anna B., Charles G., George H. and Henry C. Of the number four are yet living.

The subject of this sketch was reared and partly educated in the public schools of Bloomfield, New Jersey, being fitted for college by private instruction. In 1879 he entered Williams College and took a four-years' course, graduating in 1883 with the degree of B. A. He subsequently received the post-graduate degree of M. A. After pursuing a theological course, he was called to the pastorate of the Congregational church, of Hancock, New York, at which place he was ordained to the ministry, Rev. Thomas K. Beecher being moderator on the occasion. He remained at this point for four years as a young, but growing and efficient preacher of the gospel. From



Hancock he was called to Roxbury, Connecticut, where he enjoyed a two years' pastorate of successful labor. From Roxbury he was called to the Third Congregational church of East Haddam, Connecticut, where he enjoyed a pleasant and profitable pastorate of four years. From the latter point he was called to his present parish, where, on June 15, 1894, he took upon himself the responsible position of pastor of the First Congregational church of Normal. This has been the most eventful, and yet the most fruitful of all his pastorates. In 1896 an event occurred which brought him most prominently before the public, his moral character and theology being called in question by a rumor that he was a tippler, and to which was added current criticism of his theology. In the proper course of time an Ecclesiastical Council was called, and after rigid examination he was honorably exonerated from both charges. This outrage against his character and teachings brought him nearer to the hearts of his people, and elevated him in the estimation of the public.

Rev. Burgess is a fluent and forcible speaker, with a clear enunciation, and the use of the best English. He, in truth, preaches what he believes, and is not bound by dogmatic ideas, nor does he "follow the traditions of the elders, nor the commandments of men." He preaches the gospel, the good news of the Son of God, endeavoring to teach in love.

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LYNN E. HERSEY, principal of the violin department of the Wesleyan College of Music, was born in Brighton, Ohio, July 29, 1863, and is a son of William and Almira (Patrick) Hersey, who were born,

reared and married in Massachusetts, where the family was founded in an early day in the history of this country. From their native state, the parents removed to Brighton, Ohio, later to New London, and then to Wellington, Ohio, the father engaging in business as a contractor and builder in these places, being called from this life in 1889 at the latter place. Religiously, he was a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which his wife also belonged.

During the childhood of our subject the family removed to Wellington, Ohio, and there he pursued his literary studies in the common and high schools. During this time he commenced the study of music under local teachers on the violin, and after completing his literary education he went to Mansfield, Ohio, where he became a pupil of Professor Edward Blitz, a private teacher and a noted violinist. Subsequently he entered the Cincinnati College of Music, where for three years he pursued his studies under such eminent teachers as Henri Schradieck and Carl Hauser. Here he took the higher branches, including harmony and theory, and was graduated from that institution in the class of 1885. He then came to Bloomington and engaged in teaching in the Wesleyan College of Music for two years, having charge of the violin department. At the end of that time he went to Germany and entered the Leipzig Conservatory. Having already laid a good foundation for his musical education, he was enabled at once to enter the higher classes and to complete the required work in much less time than is demanded of students of ordinary ability. There he studied under the direction of Hans Sitt, a celebrated teacher, conductor and composer, and also under

Freidrick Hermann and Adolf Brodsky, who are also widely known violin teachers in Leipzig. He was a member of the conservatory orchestra while there, which played in public and won commendable praise. After receiving his certificate from that famed institution, Mr. Hersey returned home and resumed his former position in the Wesleyan College of Music, where he now has the largest class on the violin in the state outside of Chicago, his pupils coming from all parts of Illinois. He is one of the most popular violin players in this section and his services are in great demand as a soloist.

In September, 1893, Mr. Hersey was united in marriage with Miss Grace Fell, of Bloomington, a daughter of Robert Fell, an old and honored resident of this city. She was a graduate of the Wesleyan College of Music and there were few musicians in this city better known or more skillful. Mr. Hersey holds membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, to which his wife also belonged. Mrs. Hersey died December 29, 1898. She was a woman of sweet disposition and with an unselfish spirit. She devoted herself to her home and friends. Her ambition was for her husband's advancement in his profession and in her work assisting him. He was but yielding to her wishes that she might be near and aid him. Her death was indeed a severe blow to her husband and numberless friends.

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**JOHN A. BECK**—One of the busiest, most energetic and enterprising men of Bloomington is the gentleman whose name introduces this review. He is engaged in the undertaking and livery business, with offices at 203 South Main street, and is do-

ing a prosperous and extensive business. He is a son of William and Catherine Beck, and was born in Berlin, Ontario, on the 4th of March, 1858. His education was received in the public schools of Berlin, and upon reaching his seventeenth year he entered the employ of the Great Western Railroad as brakeman on the Wellington, Gray and Bruce division, and was eventually promoted to the position of freight conductor. After six years he went to Toledo, Ohio, accepting a position as brakeman on the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad, and was shortly afterward given charge of a train, which he ran for three years. In 1884 he resigned from the employ of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad and removed to Bloomington, where he ran a freight train over the Chicago and Alton Railroad for five years, and for five years following ran through passenger trains between Chicago and St. Louis, and over the Kansas City division. He was a faithful employ of the road for over ten years, and bore the excellent record of never having met with an accident during that time. He was summarily dismissed for carrying an employe of the road without a pass.

In 1893 Mr. Beck went to Chicago, where he learned the undertaking business, and the year following returned to Bloomington and formed a partnership with Guy Carlton, under the firm name of Carlton & Beck, Mr. Beck assuming the entire charge and management of the business. In connection with the undertaking establishment the firm is engaged in the livery business, with large and commodious stables in the center of the town. By good management and judgment, and just and honorable dealings, the business has prospered, and is

now the leading undertaking and livery business of Bloomington. Our subject is also engaged in the undertaking business at Minier, Tazewell county, under the firm name of Smith & Beck. Mr. Beck is business manager of this concern, while his partner attends to the practical side of the business.

On the 12th of December, 1886, was celebrated the marriage of Miss Jennie Agnes Owens, a daughter of Matthew Owens, of Bloomington, to our subject, Mr. Beck. One child, a daughter, Grace, has been born to this happy union. Mr. and Mrs. Beck and their daughter are at home at 310 South Main street, in their charming residence, which was built by Mr. Beck, and which reflects so much refinement, good taste and domestic luxury. The family are prominent members of the Presbyterian church, and when the Men's League, one of its social organizations, was formed, our subject was its second president. He is a member of a number of Masonic bodies, among which are the Knight Templars and Mystic Shriners. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias, Order of Red Men, the I. O. O. F., and other organizations. Mr. Beck is a prominent figure in Bloomington, possessing a courteous and pleasing manner, and winning friends by his genial disposition and honorable character, which commands the respect of all. In all relations of life he has always been faithful and true, and no shadow of wrong has ever darkened his honorable pathway.

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REV. WILLIAM R. WILEY, PH. D.,  
presiding elder of the Normal district,  
and a resident of the city of Normal, is one  
of the best known ministers of the Meth-

odist Episcopal church in the state of Illinois. He is a native of McLean county, and was born in Colfax, July 26, 1850, being the son of William and Nancy S. (Hopkins) Wiley, who removed from Indiana to this county, locating near Colfax, in 1838, being thus among the pioneers of this locality. William Wiley was a man of some means, and was a welcome addition to the community, and here he endured the hardships incident to pioneer life, but being a man of resolute purpose, he toiled on, early and late, making for himself and family a home in this grand county, and giving his children the advantages of a liberal education. He was an efficient and active member of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which body his wife is also a member, and no less active. After a long and useful life, he died March 31, 1891, leaving a devoted wife, loving children, and many friends to mourn his loss. His wife is yet living and is one of the "live coals on God's altar" in the village of Colfax. Their family consisted of eight children, five of whom are yet living: Joseph S., James S., Mrs. Lizzie Finchen, Mrs. Amelia Smith and William R.

The subject of this sketch was reared on the home farm, near Colfax, and until his eighteenth year assisted in the farm work and attended the public schools of the neighborhood. He then entered Wesleyan University, where, in addition to the literary course, he studied theology and was educated for the ministry. After the completion of his studies at Wesleyan University, he taught school for five years, receiving a first-grade certificate from William H. Smith, then county superintendent of public schools of McLean county. His first pastorate was at Mackinaw, in 1878-9, and from 1879 un-



til 1882 he served the churches at Manito and Spring Lake, Illinois. He was admitted to the Central Illinois Conference, in 1878, and on the 4th of October, 1880, he was ordained deacon by Bishop Hurst. He was ordained elder by Bishop Harris, October 1, 1882, at Lexington, Illinois. From 1882 until 1884, he was pastor of the church at Hudson, and at Gridley from 1884 until 1886. He was then assigned to the charge at Lewiston, and served until 1891. From Lewiston he went to Toulon, and there remained until 1894. He was then at Macomb until 1898, when he was elevated to the office of presiding elder of the Normal district, and removed to the city of Normal, where he now resides.

The pastorates of Rev. Wiley have been successful to a remarkable degree, not only from a spiritual, but from a material standpoint also. At Macomb he built a church edifice and parsonage costing thirty thousand dollars, and while at Lewiston he erected one costing ten thousand dollars. At other points where he has labored, he has erected smaller buildings. His success in this line has been so great that he has been called the "church builder," by his brethren of the conference. As a public speaker he is eloquent, impressive and persuasive, touching the hearts and arousing the consciences of his hearers. Back of all this, however, is the hold he has on the Divine hand, without which his life work would have proved abortive.

On the 8th of June, 1880, Rev. Wiley was united in marriage with Miss Gertrude M. Green, who was born in Bloomington, but who was reared in Towanda, where she received her education. She is a daughter of Hamilton and Elizabeth Green, natives of New York state. By this union seven chil-

dren have been born: Hamilton, Earl, Robert, Lillian, Elizabeth, Mildred and Ruth. In his pastoral work, Mrs. Wiley has been of great assistance to her husband. In politics, Mr. Wiley is a Republican, but his ministerial labors have been such that he could give little time to political matters. Wherever he has been his influence has been felt on the side of righteousness and every good work, and inside and outside of his church he has commanded the respect and good will of all.

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PAUL BEICH is one of the most enterprising and progressive business men of Bloomington, where he is now successfully conducting the largest confectionery manufactory in central Illinois. Although he is still a young man comparatively, his popularity in business circles is established on a firm basis—that of his own well-tested merit.

Mr. Beich is a native of Germany, born in Wehlau, East Prussia, May 22, 1864, and is a son of August and Hulda (Vogelsang) Beich. The father was born and reared in Margonin, the mother in Schneidemuehl, and after their marriage they located at Wehlau, where the former served as hospital inspector under the government. During the childhood of our subject the family removed to Culm, where he remained until coming to the new world. There the father served as overseer of a cadet school, which was one of the first established in Prussia. He remained with that institution until he retired from active labor and now being pensioned. He now lives at Schneidemuehl. The mother is a member of the Lutheran church and both are highly respected old people. The paternal grandfa-





PAUL F. BEICH.

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ther of our subject, August Beich, Sr., was a cloth manufacturer and one of the well-to-do citizens of Margonin. Our subject has but one brother, Reinhold, who has a government position in Germany, being Oberpost, assistant in the postal service.

Paul Beich attended first a kindergarten and later a private elementary school, after which he was a student in the gymnasium at Culm for seven years. He then served as regular apprenticeship of three years in the mercantile trade, completing the same at the age of eighteen. In 1882 he came alone to America and at once took up his residence in Bloomington, where he found employment with S. A. Maxwell & Company, dealers in wall paper, the head of the firm being now president of the wall paper trust. Mr. Beich knew but little English at that time but he was not long in mastering the language. He was next employed by Bruce & Brown, confectioners until 1886, when he went to St. Louis and connected himself with O. H. Peckham Manufacturing Company, traveling for them until 1891. His territory covered the entire state of Illinois, and while with that firm he became thoroughly conversant with every department of the business. In 1891 he organized the Beich Buffe Candy Company and did a large jobbing business until 1893, when he sold out and returned to Bloomington, purchasing the business of J. W. Gray & Company, confectionery manufacturers. He carried on business at No. 221 East Front street until his increasing business demanded his removal to larger quarters, and he then located at No. 107, the same street and more centrally located. Still later he removed to 109 and 111 East Front street, where he occupies three floors and a basement, fifty by one hundred and forty-five feet. In his

factory he employs about forty people, and has eight salesmen upon the road, covering a large amount of territory in a number of states. From the beginning his trade has constantly increased, and the success that he has achieved in this undertaking is due entirely to his energy, good business ability and sound judgment. January 1, 1899, he purchased an interest in the Bloomington Caramel Company.

On the 4th of September, 1888, Mr. Beich was united in marriage with Miss Kittie Gerken, a daughter of William A. Gerken, a well-known wholesale baker of Bloomington, and to them have been born two children: Otto Gerken and Albert Charles. Mr. Beich attends and gives his support to the Episcopal church, of which his wife is a member; and socially, he belongs to the Knights of Pythias, the Columbian Knights, the Royal Arcanum, Mozart Lodge, F. & A. M., Bloomington Chapter, R. A. M., Bloomington Council, De Molay Commandry, K. T., and the Eastern Star. He is a member of the National Confectioners Association of the United States.

SETH S. NOBLE, for thirteen years chief engineer of the city water-works of Bloomington, was born in Randolph township, McLean county, on the 8th of April, 1855. His paternal grandfather, David Noble, born in Cincinnati, Ohio, in September, 1795, was of English descent. He brought his family to Randolph township in 1831, purchasing four hundred twenty acres of land, and was among the first settlers of that township. His son, William C., was born in Hamilton county, Ohio, February 25, 1818, and was a boy of thirteen when his father came to Illinois. He

lived on the home farm until his marriage with the mother of our subject, when he farmed for himself in Randolph township. October 31, 1839, William C. married Miss Isabel J. Stewart, a daughter of Samuel Stewart, who came to Randolph township in 1828. Five children have been born to this union, two of whom are living, the subject of this review and Mrs. Alonzo Cutter, of Hatfield, Massachusetts. Three other children, a daughter, Alice, and two infant sons, are deceased. The mother followed them May 10, 1855, three weeks after the birth of our subject. Some time later William C. married Miss Eunice Burley, January 10, 1856, by whom he had three daughters. He was a prosperous and successful farmer and was at one time assessor of Randolph township. He inherited four hundred twenty acres of land from his father, two hundred forty of which he sold in 1873, retiring from farm life, and moving to Bloomington. Politically, he was a Republican, and held the position of city weigher up to the time of his death. He was a prominent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and died April, 1895. His widow and four married children survive him.

Seth S. Noble, the gentleman whose name introduces this review, obtained his earlier education in the common schools of Randolph township, and later at the Illinois Wesleyan University, taking a course in the classics. On the 5th of January, 1879, he was united in marriage to Miss Esther Mercer, of Sheffield, Bureau county, Illinois, and a daughter of John Mercer, who is living in Kansas at the age of seventy-eight years. Four children have come to bless this union, namely: Cora Belle; Herbert C.; Muriel O. and Seth S., Jr. For five years after his marriage our subject farmed in

Randolph township, and at the expiration of that time moved to Bloomington, entering the employ of an engine-builder, and representing the concern on the road. He was thus engaged for two years, and in 1886 accepted a position as fireman of the city water-works, and in three months was promoted to the position of assistant engineer, taking charge at night. He filled the office so satisfactorily, that at the end of fourteen months he was given the position of chief engineer, a position which he holds at the present day. The plant has been practically rebuilt under his superintendence, only one pump, of the original number, being retained. There are at the present time six engines in operation, and during Mr. Noble's connection with the works there has been an expenditure of over one hundred thousand dollars for improvements. The well, from which the water supply is obtained, has been deepened and a system of drive wells added, the total pumping capacity now being estimated at six million gallons daily. Our subject also has a general supervision of the electrical engines in the same building, owned by the city, and used for lighting purposes, but does not run them. This is the largest combined municipal plant in the state outside of Chicago.

Mr. Noble is also much interested in raising fancy poultry. He possesses a very fine home, with extensive grounds, and raises Plymouth Rock poultry exclusively. He has taken more prizes at the Illinois State Poultry Association during the past five years than any other person, and has also taken a great many prizes at local exhibits. At the Columbian Exposition he received forty-three dollars in premiums. He has made shipments all over the United States and Canada, and has twice made ship-



ments to South America, sending from three to five hundred fowls, and making large profits on the shipments. He has sold single birds at twenty-five dollars, and now has his name permanently before the public.

Politically, our subject is a Republican, who has no desire for public office, preferring to do his duty as a private citizen, leaving office-seeking for others. He is a member of Evergreen City Lodge, No. 265, and is past grand regent of that lodge, also present representative of the general lodge, which met recently at Springfield. He has been a very active member in the Grand Lodge, and has always been in favor of a just retrenchment in the expenses. He is also deputy in the local lodge, and is a member of McLean Encampment, No. 29. At the present time he is junior warden, and also a member of the Canton uniformed rank, and a member of Bloomington Lodge, No. 43, F. & A. M. He is also a member of the Independent Order of Forresters, and has held all the offices in the local court, and is now a representative to the High Court of the state. Mrs. Noble is a member of Grace Methodist Episcopal church. No man in Bloomington stands higher in popular esteem. He is courteous, genial, well informed, alert and enterprising, and stands to-day one of the leading representative men of his state.

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DAVID R. STUBBLEFIELD, one of the most progressive, energetic and successful agriculturists of McLean county, is the owner of a large and valuable farm in Dale township. His methods of farm management show deep scientific knowledge, combined with sound practical judgment, and

the results show that "high class" farming as an occupation can be made profitable as well as pleasant.

A native of this county, Mr. Stubblefield was born in Funks Grove township, April 13, 1846, a son of John and Ellisannah (Houser) Stubblefield. The Stubblefield family was founded in this country prior to the Revolutionary war by three brothers, Edward, William and John, who settled in Virginia, and it is from the last named that our subject is descended. On both the paternal and maternal sides he is eligible to membership in the order of the Sons of the American Revolution, as his ancestors bore an active part in the struggle for independence.

Robert Stubblefield, the paternal grandfather of our subject, was born in Halifax county, Virginia, November 23, 1793, and came to McLean county, Illinois, in the fall of 1824, at which time he located on the south side of Funks Grove, but in the spring of 1825 moved to the north side, where he built a cabin and spent the remainder of his life. He took up quite a large tract of land, about two thousand acres, and was one of the large land owners of the county in early days. He was a Whig in politics and served as a soldier in the war of 1812. His death occurred June 8, 1870, when over seventy-six years of age. His first wife and the grandmother of our subject was Sarah Funk, a sister of Isaac Funk. For his second wife he wedded her sister, Dorothy Funk, while his brother married another sister.

John Stubblefield, our subject's father, was born in Fayette county, Ohio, June 4, 1820, and was about four years old when brought by his father to McLean county, where amidst pioneer scenes he grew to

manhood with but little opportunity of attending school. However, he made the most of his advantages, and by reading and observation in later years became a well-informed man. He remained under the parental roof until he was married, December 1, 1842, at the age of twenty-two years to Miss Ellisannah Houser, a native of Indiana, who was then living with a married sister near Atlanta, Illinois. Her father, David Houser, was born about 1789, in Maryland and was of German descent. After his marriage, Mr. Stubblefield rented a log cabin of Isaac Funk, and during the two years he resided there he rented and operated a part of his father's farm. In the fall of 1846 he entered forty acres of government land in the northern part of Funks Grove township and still continues to make that place his home. Prospering in his undertakings, he kept enlarging his farm until at one time he owned nearly three thousand acres, all of which was acquired through his own industry, perseverance and good management. He has not only been one of the largest land holders of the county, but has also been extensively engaged in stock raising, being an excellent judge of cattle and hogs, the former of which he sold in Chicago, the latter in either Pekin or Peoria. In early days he drove all his stock to market on foot, as there were no railroads at that time; but this was only one of the many hardships the early pioneers were called upon to endure. Like all the other representatives of the family, Mr. Stubblefield has been a Whig and later a Republican in politics, and he has taken quite an active and prominent part in local affairs, serving as county commissioner when the new court house was started. He also filled the office of

school treasurer for twenty years. He is an earnest and consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he has served as steward, class leader and trustee most of his life, and at times as superintendent of the Sunday school. His wife died March 3, 1895, and his second youngest son died at the age of nine months. The other children are Mrs. Sarah E. Rayburn, of Bloomington; David R., our subject; George W.; Phineas M., who is now serving as deputy county treasurer of this county; Henry R., of Bloomington; Mrs. M. F. Crum, of Cass county, Illinois; Simon P., of Funks Grove township; and John W., who is living on the home place.

After attending the public schools of Funks Grove for some time, David R. Stubblefield took an elective course at the Wesleyan College, Bloomington, where he was a student for six terms. Thus well fitted for the responsibilities of business life, he returned home and remained under the parental roof until twenty-four years of age, when he removed to a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Dale township, given him by his father. He has greatly improved the place by the erection of a comfortable residence and good outbuildings, and in 1877 laid the first tile ever put under the ground in his township for farm drainage. He has since laid many rods of tile, each year adding to the amount and has converted his land into one of the best and most desirable farms of the locality. In 1886, when the water failed on his place, he drilled the first deep well in the township and put in a pump with a windmill attached, but since then a great many have been drilled in the neighborhood. He has successfully engaged in general farming, buying, feeding and shipping cattle, and has added to his farm until

he now has four hundred and forty acres of valuable land.

On the 8th of December, 1870, Mr. Stubblefield was united in marriage with Miss Matilda Bower, a daughter of Henry T. Bower, of Dale township. To them have been born seven children, but two died in infancy. Those now living are Nellie, wife of Carey Brant, of Dale township; Lawrence W., who aids his father in the operation of the home farm; Cora B., who is now attending the high school of Bloomington; Howard B. and Lulu F., both at home.

As an ardent Republican, Mr. Stubblefield takes an active and prominent part in local politics, and has most creditably and satisfactorily filled the offices of supervisor for two years, township assessor one year, school director twelve years, and school trustee six years. While filling the last-named office there was some trouble about the location of the new school-house, and the case was brought up for trial. It was carried to the appellate court at Springfield, our subject sustaining all the trials with the exception of the one before the justice of the peace. Finally, after a great deal of trouble, the school house was built. Although the heaviest taxpayer in his district, Mr. Stubblefield has always given his support to any measure which would improve or benefit the schools of his community. He was one of the charter members of the old Covell Grange, and later joined the Grange at Stanford, of which he served as master and which he represented in the State Grange. He was connected with the Grange for twenty-four years. Religiously, he has been a life-long member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Covell, to which his wife and children also belong, and he has not only given liberally to its support

but has filled the offices of class leader, steward and Sunday-school superintendent, having filled the last named position for eighteen years. He is a man of recognized ability and stands high in the community where he has so long made his home. Those who know him best are numbered among his warmest friends, and no citizen in McLean county is more honored or highly respected. In 1899 he served as president of the McLean County Farmers' Institute.

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ASA MELCHER, a well-known contracting stair builder and also a general manufacturer of interior decorative work, of Bloomington, was born in that city, September 16, 1866, and is a representative of an old and honored colonial family, which was founded in this country by Joseph Melcher, who crossed the Atlantic in 1666 and took up his residence in Brunswick, Maine, being one of the early Puritan emigrants. The family was originally German, but Joseph was of the third generation born in England. He engaged in contracting as a shipbuilder and was a man of great wealth in those times, bringing with him to this country twenty thousand dollars in gold. He married a Miss Perntern, an English woman, who came to America at the same time as her husband and lived to the extreme old age of one hundred and four years. Their son, Noah, also a ship builder, died in Brunswick, Maine, at the age of one hundred and two. He was a soldier of the Revolutionary war, and prior to that time members of the family had participated in the Indian and other early wars of this country.

Abner Melcher, the son of Noah, the grandfather of our subject, was born at



Weld, Maine, and during his youth learned the fuller's trade. He married a sister of Samuel R. Morse, the inventor of the telegraph. He continued to reside in his native place until 1837, when he came to Mt. Vernon, Illinois, and built a woolen mill, one of the first in the state. He did general work along that line, but the venture did not prove a success, as he was ahead of the demand. He died at that place at the age of seventy-five years.

Josiah F. Melcher, our subject's father, was born in Weld, Jefferson county, Maine, September 10, 1819, and was fourteen years of age when he left that place and came with his brother Rufus, who was then twenty, to Illinois, settling at Mt. Vernon, where they bought one hundred and sixty acres of land for two hundred dollars in gold. They erected their house upon the present site of the court house at that place. After living there for a number of years, Josiah F. Melcher went to St. Louis, where he spent eight years in learning the stair-builder's, house-builder's and millwright's trades. He remained there one year longer, and in 1851 came to Bloomington, where he worked for John W. Evans for seven years. He then embarked in business for himself as a stair-builder and general contractor at the same corner where our subject still continues to carry on the business. The father conducted a successful business at that place for thirty-nine years, and did much of the stair-building and interior finishing throughout the city and in adjoining towns until his retirement from business in 1887. He is the author of two books on Theoretical Astronomy, and religious writings, and is the inventor of a number of mechanical tools used in his line of business, which were patented by him. In 1845 he married Miss Nancy Elizabeth

Patterson, of Mt. Vernon, who was also a native of Maine and died in 1877. Of the ten children born to them, only four reached years of maturity, these being Newton, Milton, Freeman and Asa, all stair-builders, but our subject is the only one now living. The family has been well represented in all the wars of this country and Freeman was among the boys in blue during the Civil war, enlisting at Danville, Illinois, in Company C, Sixty-second Illinois Volunteer Infantry, when only fourteen years and nine months of age. He died in the hospital at Dayton, Ohio. Richard, Henry and Ellen all died of cholera at St. Louis within one week.

The literary education of Asa Melcher was acquired in the city schools of Bloomington. At the age of ten years he began working in his father's shop, where he served his apprenticeship, and at the age of twenty-three found employment with John W. Evans, for whom he worked five years. On his father's retirement he took charge of the business, which he has since successfully carried on, enjoying a good trade in this city and neighboring towns, where he has put in the interior finishings of many of the best houses. He furnishes employment to three or four men all the time, and as occasion demands increases his force. He devotes his whole time to his business and has met with excellent success. He owns a fine home at No. 506 East Walnut street, where he owns two lots in the finest residence district of the city, being near Franklin Park.

On the 12th of April, 1887, Mr. Melcher was united in marriage with Miss Dora Dyke, of Bloomington, and to them were born four children, namely: Stanley R., who died at the age of six years; Mildred, Hester and



Eleanor. Both Mr. and Mrs. Melcher have been members of the Christian church for several years. Socially, he is a prominent member of Damon Lodge, No. 10, K. of P., of which he has been chancellor a number of times, and he is eligible for membership in the Grand Lodge. His political support has always been given the men and measures of the Democratic party, but he has never been an aspirant for office. His career has ever been such as to warrant the trust and confidence of the business world, for he has ever conducted all transactions on the strictest principles of honor and integrity. His devotion to the public good is unquestioned, and arises from a sincere interest in the welfare of his fellow men.

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JAMES P. BUTLER, the well-known and popular proprietor of the Butler House, of Bloomington, is a native of Kentucky, having been born in Scott county, near Frankfort, on the 2d of September, 1838. His parents were William H. and Hattie Jane (Spicer) Butler, both natives of the Blue Grass state. The family moved to Covington, Kentucky, when James was a child, and in 1855 came to Bloomington, where for a time the father worked at his trade, that of the carpenter, and later engaging in the butcher business with his son, dying in 1861. His wife still lives at the advanced age of eighty-two years, making her home with her son, the subject of this sketch. In her religious views she is a Baptist, and her husband was a Methodist. The family of Mr. and Mrs. Butler are here named in order of birth: James P., the subject of this review; John, a resident of Bloomington; Thomas, of Chicago; Mrs. Jane Barksley, of Springfield, Illinois; Eu-

nice, deceased, the wife of Randolph Arlington, of Huron, South Dakota; Mrs. Alice Harris, of Springfield; Mrs. Anna Galeman, also of Springfield; and Mrs. Esther Roberts, of the same city.

James obtained his education at the schools of Covington, Kentucky, and Bloomington, and learned his trade with Dedrich Bradner, an old firm of Bloomington. For a time he worked at his trade, that of tinner, and then went into the butcher business for himself, taking his father, Wm. H. Butler, into the business, where he remained until his death. Our subject then sold his stock and engaged in the grocery and bakery business on Front street. Selling the grocery business, he entered the police force, and was captain of the night force, and at the same time was city collector, and also alderman from the third ward for two terms. After this time our subject was elected constable, an office which he held for two terms, and was deputy sheriff under Mr. Swain. For fifteen years he has been engaged in the detective business, and has been successfully employed on some of the most important criminal cases in the state. He is a man endowed with the strongest individuality, intrepid bravery when in the face of most desperate situations, and a phenomenal coolness and presence of mind under all circumstances. He worked the case that brought out the evidence in the Zura Burns case of Lincoln, Illinois, and demanded the arrest of O. H. Carpenter. He also furnished the evidence that caused the death of the murderer of Owen Goodfellow, and a number of others. Mr. Butler is the proprietor of the Butler House, and after making the purchase built a three-story brick addition. He has done a successful business for the

past fifteen years, and is the oldest hotel man, in point of time, in Bloomington.

Mr. Butler and his wife, who was before her marriage Miss Lizzie Cavanaugh, of Ottawa, Illinois, are the parents of two sons, and also have a little adopted daughter, Myrtle. Major William P. Butler, the eldest son of our subject, is city engineer, and was major of the First Squadron, First Illinois Cavalry. He had been connected with the engineer corps, and was its captain at the opening of the Spanish-American war. He entered the United States service and was sent to Chickamauga, and after being mustered out of service returned to the state militia, and was ordered to Pana, where was given charge of the troops during the riots among the miners in that locality. Major Butler married Miss Tillie Baumbach, by whom he has three daughters: Hazel, Cecil and Orville. He has held the position of city engineer for the past eight years, with much satisfaction to the community. Captain Charles E. Butler, the youngest son of our subject, is captain of Troop G, First Illinois Volunteer Cavalry, in the United States service during the Spanish-American war. At the present time (May, 1899) is captain of Troop B, which has been the only troop at Pana for the past five weeks of the labor trouble. He has been a member of the Illinois National Guards for the past fourteen years, and was second lieutenant of his company. By his first wife he has one daughter, Edna. While at Chickamauga, for his second wife he married Miss May Brewer, of Bloomington.

Our subject is a member of the Knights of Pythias, and in his political principles is a stanch Republican, who has always taken an active and prominent part in the support

of his party. He has always taken an interest in the welfare of the city of his home, and is considered one of her ablest citizens. Every enterprise calculated to promote her interests finds cordial support at his hands, and he has been an invaluable factor in her prosperity. He is a man of scholarly attainments, pleasant genial manner, of easy approach, and possesses the warm regard of all.

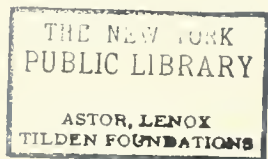
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HENRY S. SWAYNE. Among the prominent men to whom Bloomington has been a place of residence is Henry Stewart Swayne, a scientist whose investigations and researches have greatly enriched the educational department of this city. For many years he was prominently connected with the active affairs of business life and thus wielded a wide influence, but in the field of knowledge his labors were most effective and their result is immeasurable. In commercial life he was eminently practical and manifested a far-seeing judgment and discrimination that led to prosperity, but in the realms of mental advancement he gave to the world an impetus whose power can never be lost, for each discovery adds to the sum total of the world's advancement. His student life naturally prevented him from mingling greatly with his fellow men, yet he was a gentleman of broad human sympathies and by those who knew him well his companionship was greatly enjoyed.

Henry Stewart Swayne was born in Columbus, Ohio, June 2, 1845, and was a representative of an old and honored American family that was founded in the New World by Francis Swayne, who crossed the Atlantic with William Penn. The farm upon which he settled near Philadelphia is still



HENRY S. SWAYNE.





in possession of his descendants. Joshua Swayne, the grandfather of our subject, removed from Pennsylvania to Virginia, and there Judge Noah Swayne was born in Culpeper county, December 7, 1804. He was one of the most conspicuous figures in the history of the jurisprudence of the nation. His public career extended over a long period, and that of no member of the United States supreme court has been more fearless in conduct, more stainless in reputation. He acquired a good literary education in Waterford, Virginia, after which he studied law in Warrenton and was admitted to the bar in 1823. He afterward removed to Ohio, and in 1825 opened an office in Coshocton, that state. From 1826 until 1829 he served as prosecuting attorney of his county which was the beginning of a public career alike honorable to the state and to himself. On the Democratic ticket he was elected to the Ohio legislature, and in 1831 he was appointed United States district attorney for Ohio, at which time he removed to Columbus, capably serving in that position until 1841. In 1833 he declined the office of presiding judge of the common pleas court. From the time of his retirement from the office of United States district attorney he engaged in the private practice of law until appointed, in conjunction with Alfred Kelly and Gustavus Swan, a fund commissioner to restore the credit of the state. He also served on the commission that was sent by the governor to Washington to effect a settlement of the boundary line between Ohio and Michigan, and in 1840 was a member of the committee to inquire into the condition of the blind. The trial of William Rossane and others in the circuit court at Columbus, in 1853, for the burning of the steamboat Martha Wash-

ington, to obtain the insurance, was one of the most celebrated cases with which he was connected. He also appeared as counsel in fugitive slave cases, and owing to his anti-slavery opinions, joined the Republican party on its formation, liberating at an early day the slaves he received through his marriage in 1832. In 1862 he was appointed by President Lincoln a justice of the supreme court of the United States, and served in that high office until 1881, when he resigned on account of advanced age. The degree of LL. D., was conferred upon him by Dartmouth and Marietta Colleges in 1863 and by Yale College in 1865. He died in New York City in June, 1884. He was instrumental in shaping the history of the nation, in forming the Republican party and rose to an eminence which was a natural sequence of his noble life and wonderful talents.

Henry Stewart Swayne, son of the eminent jurist, spent his youth in Columbus, Ohio, and completed his education within the classic walls of Yale, where he was graduated with the degree of A. B. He afterward studied civil engineering and was employed along that line on the construction of a railroad in Wisconsin. After perfecting himself as a civil engineer, he turned his attention in another direction, being for some years engaged in business in Toledo, Ohio, as proprietor of an extensive moulding factory. In his business he displayed marked energy, concentration and sound judgment, but he was endowed with the mind of a student and eagerly availed himself of the opportunity of devoting his entire attention to his scientific researches. When his capital enabled him to retire from business life he put aside all care in that direction, and after coming to

Bloomington in 1885 lived practically retired.

Even while in business Mr. Swayne was deeply interested in scientific subjects and gave considerable time and thought thereto. After taking up his residence in this county he spent many hours daily in pursuing his investigations in paths that others had trod and along new and original lines. He made a specialty of chemistry and fitted up a splendid laboratory in connection with which he had one of the largest and most complete scientific libraries in the state. He inherited the strong mental traits of his father, although they were manifest in a different department of knowledge. His mind was keenly analytical and he was never content until he had gained the mastery of the subject that engrossed his attention. His interest, however, was not confined alone to scientific study. He endorsed and encouraged every department of learning, and music had for him especial charms.

On the second of December, 1875, Mr. Swayne was united in marriage to Miss Sarah W. Davis, a lady of superior culture and the daughter of Judge David Davis, whose history is familiar to every student of the annals of Illinois. In his home he delighted to gather around him his friends, and though their number was not extensive they found him a most genial and entertaining host, and friendship to him was inviolable. At length his health began to fail, and he went abroad spending a year and a half in travel on the continent, but a few months after his return his death occurred, November 8, 1893.

Perhaps no better estimate of his life and character can be given than in the words of Professor R. O. Graham, dean and

professor of chemistry in the Illinois Wesleyan University, who was his intimate friend and associate and with whom he spent many hours each week in his fine laboratory in the Durley building, Bloomington, engaged in scientific work. The Professor said: "During his entire life in Bloomington Mr. Swayne had but few intimate acquaintances. Naturally reserved in disposition, he was not well known by the citizens generally. To his friends he was warmly attached, and to these he revealed his warm-hearted generous nature. He was constantly engaged in acts of quiet charity, known only to the recipients and himself. Many of the poor in Bloomington sorely mourned his untimely death.

Mr. Swayne was among the organizers of the College Alumni Club, which has gained so strong hold in the city. He was enthusiastic in its interests and was made its second president. Among these men he was at his best, and he commanded their highest respect. He was also a great lover of music and more than one devoted student in this line is indebted to him for aid given in pushing forward their study. He had great interest in natural science and at the time of his death had planned improvements on a large scale that would have made him the possessor of one of the most extensive and best private laboratories and scientific libraries in the country.

"When he felt his health failing, he spent a year in Europe, consulting the best physicians there. On returning to Bloomington he again took up his scientific studies. It was but a few months, however, until his labors were ended. Leaving the laboratory one evening with plans for a full day's work there on the morrow, he was taken violently ill and lived but a few days. His

unexpected death brought great sorrow to those who knew him best, to whom his generous and unselfish character had greatly endeared him." Thus passed away one whose life, though quiet and unostentatious, enriched the world, and whose memory remains as a blessed benediction to those who knew him.

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**W**ILLIAM LEAF, a wealthy and retired farmer, residing in the city of Normal, was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, September 1, 1823, and is the son of Edward and Ann (Waterworth) Leaf, both of whom were natives of England, who emigrated to this country in 1818. Edward Leaf was a soldier in the English army, being drafted about the close of the war of 1812. He did not, however, serve in that war, and therefore came to this country as a man of peace, and made a good and loyal citizen. On his arrival here he located with his family at Philadelphia and there remained a few years, after which he removed to Canada, but not finding that country congenial to him, he returned to Philadelphia, where he lived until about 1840, when he removed to Steubenville, Ohio, but only remained there a very short time, and then removed to Sharp's Landing, Fulton county, Illinois. Here he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of timber land (the prairie at that time being considered worthless) and settled down to farming. The land was cleared and otherwise improved, and placed under a high state of cultivation.

As time passed, and men became more familiar with prairie land, they became aware of its fertility. This proved to be the case with Edward Leaf. Selling his Fulton county farm, he moved to Mason

county, Illinois, and purchased three quarter-sections of prairie land, and each son was given a quarter section. Here Edward and Ann Leaf passed to their reward, the former in 1869, at the age of seventy-seven years, and the latter in 1865, at the age of sixty-three years. They were pious, upright people, honest in their dealings with their fellow men, being members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and living in strict accordance with the teachings and doctrines of that church. Their family consisted of six children, four of whom are yet living.

William Leaf was the fourth child in order of birth. He accompanied his parents in their various removals, and in consequence his opportunity for securing a liberal education was not of the best, but he made the best use of the opportunities given him. He came to Illinois a youth of seventeen years, and assisted his father in clearing his Fulton county farm, and soon after the removal of the family to Mason county, at the age of twenty-two years, he commenced life for himself on one of the quarter-sections purchased by his father, and which was deeded to him. With characteristic industry, he proceeded to improve his tract, engaging in general farming. He was prosperous in all his undertakings, and was soon brought into some prominence in the county which had been chosen as his home. In 1848 he was commissioned by Governor French as captain of a company of the Ninth Illinois Militia, for service in the war with Mexico. Hostilities ceasing soon after he was commissioned, he did not enter the field.

After more than thirty years of laborious work upon the farm, in 1876 Mr. Leaf sold his interests in Mason county and came to McLean county, making his home in Nor-



mal. After his removal to the county he purchased here three farms, one containing two hundred and eighty-four acres, one of one hundred and sixty acres, and the third one of one hundred and twenty acres, together with his home in Normal. He also owns a half-section of land in Kansas.

On the 27th of August, 1846, Mr. Leaf was united in marriage with Miss Mary E. Couchman, a native of Nicholas county, Kentucky, born September 24, 1824, and daughter of Benjamin and Ruth Couchman. By this union six children were born, five of whom are yet living: Edward L., Adelia, Ellen, Seabery F. and Amos. Of these, Edward is engaged in farming in McLean county and Seabery F. is a professor at Lebanon, Kansas.

Mr. and Mrs. Leaf were consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church until 1868, when Mr. Leaf's mind underwent a change. A traveling preacher came into his neighborhood teaching the people that Jesus Christ should come again as he went, and again dwell on the earth. This doctrine he believed to be in accordance with the teachings of the Savior, and he therefore gave heed to the teachings and has been since that time an earnest and enthusiastic advocate of the doctrine. In 1879 he was ordained to the ministry of the First Day Adventist church, and its doctrine he faithfully observes and teaches in Bloomington and surrounding country. Politically, he is a Prohibitionist.

This worthy couple have lived in peace and harmony, enjoying the good things a bountiful Father has given them, for more than fifty years. On the 27th of August, 1896, they celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their wedded life, surrounded by children and grandchildren, together with a host of

friends, who vied with each other in attention shown to those they loved and respected, and wishing them a continuance of their happy life.

JOHN T. HENDERSON, manager of the Grand Opera House of Bloomington and one of the leading business men of that city, was born near Eau Claire, Wisconsin, November 11, 1860. His parents, Matthew and Mary (Edington) Henderson, were both natives of Scotland, born and reared near Edinburg. There the father studied veterinary surgery and successfully engaged in practice in that city until his emigration to America about 1850. He first located near Eau Claire, Wisconsin, where he took up government land, and in connection with the work of improvement and cultivation, he continued to engage in the practice of his profession. Shortly after the birth of our subject the family came to Bloomington, where the father engaged in practice until called from this life in 1865. The wife and mother passed away April 10, 1882. They were consistent members of the First Presbyterian church, and had the respect and esteem of all who knew them. They left four children; namely: Bettie, now the wife of P. R. Griffith, of Bloomington; William E., now deceased; Thomas E., also a resident of Bloomington; and John T., our subject.

John T. Henderson attended the public schools and later the high school of Bloomington, where he was graduated in 1883. After that he became connected with the insurance business as a clerk, but soon embarked in the same business on his own account and was not long in building up an excellent trade. He also organized and put



in successful operation the Bloomington Fire Insurance Company and later sold out to Chicago parties. He sold his other insurance business after it had assumed extensive proportions. In the meantime he had become interested in real estate in the city, and after selling his other business he took the management of the Grand Opera House, February 1, 1897, also acting as lessee of the same. It is one of the finest equipped opera houses of central Illinois and the building alone cost forty-five thousand dollars. Mr. Henderson has met with most excellent success in its management, although opera houses in other cities have not paid, but he devotes the greater part of his time to its business with most gratifying success and is decidedly the right man in the right place. He is proprietor of the Bloomington Bill Posting Company, which gives employment to three men and has entire control of all the bill boards in the city of Normal, having over five thousand feet of signs, a much larger space than most towns of the size. These are kept full of other advertisements while not used for the opera house, and the business has proved quite profitable. In business affairs Mr. Henderson has displayed remarkable ability and sound judgment and is very popular with his business associates.

Socially, he is a prominent member of the Bloomington Club, of which he has been a director for two years; he was also one of the organizers of the Keystone Club, and has served as chairman of the board of directors since its incorporation eight years ago; and he is also a member of the Bloomington Golf Club, as he is a lover of athletics. He belongs to the Knights of Pythias fraternity, and attends and supports the First Congregational church. Whether in

public or private life, he is always a courteous, genial gentleman, well deserving the high regard in which he is universally held.

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SAMUEL C. KIRKPATRICK, who is living on his fine farm on section 30, Normal township, about one-half mile from the corporate limits of the city of Normal, was born in Woodford county, Illinois, June 26, 1850, and is the son of Samuel and Anna (Hougham) Kirkpatrick, the former a native of Virginia, born in 1806, who in early childhood moved with his parents, Thomas and Betsy Kirkpatrick, to Adams county, Ohio. Soon after their arrival there his parents died, and he was left an orphan at a very tender age. In that county he grew to manhood, and in his youth learned the blacksmith's trade, which he continued to follow as long as he remained in Ohio. In 1833 he came to Illinois and located in Woodford county, where he entered some three hundred or four hundred acres of land, which was in its wild state. On that land he erected his dwelling house, and also built a blacksmith shop, continuing to work at his trade, in connection with farming, for a number of years, and even up to the time of his death did all his own work in that line.

Before leaving Ohio, in 1831, Samuel Kirkpatrick was united in marriage with Anna Hougham, daughter of Runyan (who died September 4, 1833, aged fifty-three) and Sarah Hougham (who died October, 1844, aged sixty years) who were of German origin. By this union seven children were born, six of whom grew to maturity and are yet living. Sarah died in early childhood. Margaret married Albert Campbell and is now living in Normal. Melissa J. is the wife of

Joseph H. Sharp, and they are living in Hudson township. Thomas W. married Amanda McKee, and is now living in Nebraska. Elizabeth Ann married Robert Benson, and they reside in Bloomington. Lemon H. married Margaret Kane, and they reside in White Oak township. Samuel C. is the subject of this sketch. Both parents are now deceased, the mother dying in 1871 and the father in 1873. In politics he was a Republican, and was honored by his friends and neighbors with various official positions. He was supervisor for a number of terms, and also served as justice of the peace for years. In addition to those positions, he served as assessor, collector, school director and school trustee. In his business life he was quite successful, and while starting in life a poor boy, he succeeded in accumulating a handsome property.

In his native country our subject grew to manhood, and in the district schools received his education. He remained at home and assisted in the farm work until after he attained his majority. On the 23rd of November, 1871, he was united in marriage with Miss Amanda Johnston, who was born in Danvers township, McLean county, April 12, 1851, and the daughter of Charles and Rebecca Ann (Stevenson) Johnston, the former a native of New Jersey, born July 3, 1814, and the latter of Green county, Ohio, born November 21, 1813. From his New Jersey home, a boy of seven years, Charles Johnston was taken by his parents to Green county, Ohio, and a short time after their arrival there the mother died, and two weeks later the father also passed away. In that country he grew to manhood, and was reared to the life of a farmer. His marriage with Rebecca Ann Stevenson was

there celebrated, and about 1847 they came to McLean county, and locating in Danvers township, he there took up a tract of land, and also purchased another tract. In due time he became a large land owner in the county. In 1858 he removed from Danvers to White Oak township, where he purchased a large farm and spent the remainder of his life. His death occurred March 19, 1890, his wife preceding him some two years, having died January 1, 1888. They were the parents of eleven children, nine of them grew to maturity. James S. married Mary J. Kane, and they reside in Normal. Mary Ann married Charles Barnes, but is now deceased. John S. married Martha Havens, who is now deceased. He is now living in Hudson, Illinois. Martha J. is the wife of J. W. Baldrige, and they reside in Texas. Joseph H. married Cora Nevions, and they reside near Webster City, Iowa. Catherine is the wife of Henry Wright, and they reside in Oklahoma. Rebecca I. married John A. Benson, and they are living in Blue Mound, Kansas. Amanda is the wife of our subject. Sarah married Alonzo McKinney, and they are living in White Oak township.

After his marriage, Mr. Kirkpatrick took his bride to the home of his father, with whom they lived until the father's death, after which they remained on the old home place for nine years, and in 1882 moved to White Oak township, locating on the Johnston homestead, which comprised three hundred and seventy acres, which he had previously purchased, and there resided until February, 1893, when he purchased the farm on which he now resides in Normal township, comprising one hundred and thirty-one acres of excellent land. He removed to this place in order that he might give his children the benefit of an education

in the Normal University. His family consists of three children. Valeria Belle is now the wife of Jesse H. Riley, and they have had two children, but both are now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Riley make their home in White Oak township. Gertrude Ann is the wife of Charles E. Otto, and they have one child, Cleda Marie. They make their home in Normal township. Samuel C., the only son, is now a student in Normal University, which institution both daughters also attended.

Mr. Kirkpatrick has the reputation of being one of the best farmers in McLean county, and has made a specialty of stock raising, feeding all the grain that he raises, and even purchasing from others. He usually has on his place about seventy-five to one hundred head of cattle and two hundred head of hogs, which he prepares for the market. He has also given considerable attention to the raising of Norman draft horses, and has raised some splendid animals, selling some as high as five hundred dollars each.

Politically Mr. Kirkpatrick is a staunch Republican, with which party he has acted since casting his first presidential vote for U. S. Grant, in 1872. While residing in Woodford county, he served as justice of the peace, school director and school trustee, and since residing in McLean county has been school director and road commissioner. He is a thoroughly enterprising citizen, one willing to do all in his power to advance the material interest of the section in which he makes his home.

farm of two hundred and forty acres in Dale township, which township is also the place of his nativity. He was born December 21, 1861, and is a son of John and Lottie (English) Mitchell. His father was a native of Ohio, and when a young man came to this county with his father, Isaac Mitchell, Sr., who was one of the pioneer settlers of Dale township. The mother of our subject was born in Erie county, Pennsylvania, and was the daughter of John English, who also came to this locality at an early day and resided for many years in Dale township.

In the public schools of the neighborhood Isaac J. Mitchell acquired a good practical English education, and also early became familiar with all the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. He assisted his father in the cultivation of the home farm until twenty-two years of age, and the following year entered upon an independent business career. He was then married and for a year rented and operated a farm belonging to Charles Schneider, of Bloomington township, during which time he made his home with his grandmother, Mrs. English. Subsequently he removed to his present home, renting the land for six years. During that time he engaged in threshing quite extensively and in that way combined with his farming operations, he became enabled to purchase eighty acres of land on section 20, Dale township. He has since successfully carried on general farming, and has extended the boundaries of his place by the additional purchase of eighty acres, and from his wife's father they received another eighty-acre tract, thus making their farm a valuable property of two hundred and forty acres. The greater part of this is now under a high state of cultivation. A hand-

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ISAAC J. MITHELL, one of the prosperous and enterprising agriculturists of McLean county, is the owner of a valuable



some country residence is supplemented by good barns and substantial outbuildings, and these stand in the midst of well-tilled fields which yield a golden tribute in return for the care and labor bestowed upon them by the owner, who is regarded as one of the most enterprising, progressive and practical farmers of the neighborhood.

On the 23d of August, 1886, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Mitchell and Miss Nettie Rogers, a daughter of Thomas Rogers, one of the early settlers and well-known farmers of Dale township. They now have three children, Maude, Bliss and Fairy, and have lost one daughter, May, who died at the age of seven years. Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell enjoy the warm regard of many friends, and are widely known in this locality, where their entire lives have been passed. They hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he is serving as steward and as assistant superintendent of the Sunday-school, being one of the active workers in the interest of the church. He has always given his political support to the Republican party until the present year, when he transferred his allegiance to the Prohibition party. He has served as township clerk for eight years and tax collector for four years, discharging his duties in a most prompt and able manner. His name is on the membership rolls of Stanford Lodge, I. O. O. F., the Modern Woodmen of America, the Court of Honor and the Pioneer Reserve Society, and by his brethren of those orders is held in high regard as a worthy representative of the benevolent and commendable principles which underlie the organizations. He enjoys a most enviable reputation as an honorable business man, and his prosperity is well merited.

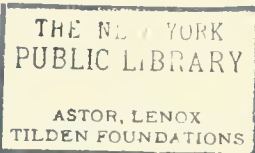
**HENRY CAPEN.** Honored and respected by all, there is no man in Bloomington who occupies a more enviable position in business and financial circles than Henry Capen, not alone on account of the brilliant success he has achieved, but also on account of the honorable, straightforward business policy he has ever followed. He possesses untiring energy, is quick of perception, forms his plans readily and is determined in their execution; and his close application to business and excellent management have brought to him the prosperity which is to-day his.

Mr. Capen was born in Seneca Falls, Seneca county, New York, January 29, 1832, a son of Luman W. and Sybil (Hoskins) Capen, who are represented elsewhere in this volume. The mother died when he was only ten years old, leaving two children, but his sister died young. He commenced his education in the public schools of Cayuga county, New York, whither the family removed when he was six months old, and later he attended the seminary at Ithaca and a select school at home, completing his literary training at the age of sixteen years. He obtained his first knowledge of business and business methods in his father's country store at Union Springs, in Cayuga county, where business was carried on for twenty-five years under the firm name of Hoskins & Capen, the senior member being Laban Hoskins, a maternal uncle of our subject. In 1856 he accompanied his father on his removal to McLean county, Illinois. Henry Capen came into Bloomington, where our subject was employed one year as a clerk by R. R. Landon, the largest dry-goods merchant in the city. He and his father then formed a partnership and embarked in the crockery, glassware and china business,





HENRY CAPEN.



theirs being the first store of the kind in the city. The only building they could procure was a little carpenter shop on the east side of the square, a building that was simply boarded up. That winter they suffered much from the cold, but in the spring were able to rent a better store room on the south side of the square. Their trade rapidly increased until it assumed extensive proportions, and in the meantime they opened a branch store at Decatur, of which our subject took charge in 1860. He remained there for eight years, at the end of which time the business was sold. In 1869 the store in Bloomington was also sold, and father and son purchased almost a half interest in the Phoenix Savings, Loan & Trust Company Bank, of which the former became cashier and the latter assistant cashier. This was one of the early savings banks of central Illinois and they continued their connection with it for seven years, selling their interests at the end of that time to Corydon Weed, after which the father lived retired. Our subject, however, opened an office of his own and embarked in business as a loan and investment broker. He still carries on operations along that line, as the business has constantly increased until five persons are now required to attend to the same. He deals principally in farm mortgages and has handled millions of dollars worth of loans without losing a dollar of principal of any customer. He gave his eldest son, Frank, an interest in the business in 1890, and his son Fred B. also an interest in 1896, the firm being now known as H. Capen & Sons. Mr. Capen is also a stockholder, director and secretary of the board of directors of the Peoples Bank; a stockholder and director of the Co-operative Stove Company, a very successful enter-

prise; and was one of the original stockholders and directors of the Citizens Gas Light & Heating Company. He is one of the most progressive, energetic and reliable business men of the city, and the success that he has achieved in life is certainly justly merited.

On the 20th of April, 1858, Mr. Capen was united in marriage with Miss Henrietta P. Clark, of Bloomington, where she located in 1856. Her father was Rev. Luther Clark, a Presbyterian minister of Dryden, Tompkins county, New York, and her grandfather was Rev. John Clark, also a minister of that denomination. To Mr. and Mrs. Capen have been born two sons, Frank C. and Fred B. Frank C. married May Johnson—they have one daughter, Helen. Fred B. married Eda Maier. Both sons are residents of Bloomington. For thirty-three years they have resided at No. 501 West Locust street, where they have a beautiful and commodious home, surrounded by a very large and lovely lawn, and here their many friends are always sure of a hearty welcome. They have been life-long members of the Presbyterian church and were among the first to unite with the congregation with which they are now connected. While a resident of Decatur, he served as deacon, trustee and treasurer of the Presbyterian church at that time, and has been trustee of the church in Bloomington for nearly thirty years and usher for about the same length of time; also treasurer for twenty-one years, having succeeded his father, who occupied the same position for fifteen years. During the erection of their elegant new house of worship, which was built at a cost of sixty-five thousand dollars, he was a member of the building committee and treasurer of the building fund. With

two or three others he superintended the building himself and worked untiringly for its completion. It is justly considered one of the finest churches in central Illinois, being complete in all its appointments, and much of the credit of this is due to Mr. Capen's unselfish devotion to the work. As a citizen he meets every requirement and manifests a commendable interest in everything calculated to promote the city's welfare. In private life he is sympathetic and generous, extending a helping hand to the poor and needy and always ready to aid those less fortunate than himself. In manner he is pleasant, and all who know him esteem him highly for his genuine worth.

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JOSEPH J. THOMPSON is one of the prominent young attorneys and business men of Bloomington. He is a native of Warren county, Illinois, born January 14, 1868, near the village of Kirkwood, then known as Young America. His father, John W. Thompson, was born near Carrick-on-the-Shannon, County Roscommon, Ireland, and emigrated to America when eighteen years of age. As a farmer boy he began life on this side of the Atlantic, working for a few years for Mr. Goldsmith, of Orange county, New York, the owner of the celebrated trotting horse, Goldsmith Maid. While there he married Miss Hannah Crofton, a native of Ireland, and soon afterward came west, settling near Alexis, Warren county, Illinois, where he bought a small farm. After living there for about eight years he purchased a larger place near Young America, in the same county, to the cultivation of which he devoted his energies for nine years with most gratifying success. His next farm was near Alexis, where he

owned six hundred and forty acres of valuable land. The success that he achieved in life was due entirely to his own well-directed efforts, and he was able to leave his family well provided for, having accumulated a handsome competence. He died in 1894, at the age of sixty-three years, and his wife in 1896, leaving a family of ten children.

Joseph J. Thompson began his education in the public schools near Alexis, later attended the high school of Aledo, Mercer county, Illinois, and the Northern Illinois Normal College at Dixon, where he took the literary and civil engineering courses and was graduated in 1888 with the degree of C. E. During the following two years he engaged in teaching school near Alexis, and then read law in the offices of Matthews & Peacock, of Monmouth, and Benjamin & Morrissy, of Bloomington, having come to this city in 1889. Subsequently he attended the Wesleyan Law College, where he was graduated with the degree of LL. B., in 1891, and was admitted to the bar in June of the same year. Immediately afterward he formed a partnership with D. D. Donahue, and under the name of Thompson & Donahue they engaged in general practice till January 1, 1899, when that firm was dissolved. He has been connected with some of the most important cases tried in the city and enjoys an excellent practice. Mr. Thompson has also been considerably interested in real estate in the city, and has bought and sold a number of places to a good advantage. He bought the Park property, which was a brick house and an old landmark on the corner of West and Chestnut streets. Work was commenced on the place in June, 1897, and by June of the following year the old house had been torn down and three handsome modern two-



story residences erected on the large lot, at a cost of fifteen thousand dollars. This is one of the most notable improvements in the city in recent years. His own beautiful home is at the corner of the streets. For some time he has been agitating public improvements for that part of the city, and has been instrumental in having the ordinance passed for laying sewers and paving that district. He is also interested in other city real estate and in farming lands in this county and in Indiana, and has been quite successful in his real-estate operations.

On the 6th of November, 1889, Mr. Thompson was united in marriage with Miss Julia E. McNamara, of Alexis, Illinois, a daughter of Bartholomew McNamara, a farmer by occupation. They now have two children: Aurelia M. and Hannah L. They are members of Holy Trinity Catholic church, and his parents were members of the same denomination, being connected with St. Theresa' church at Alexis, Illinois. Our subject is an active member of the Democratic party, has served as secretary of the county central committee and the city committee, and has been a delegate to all of the conventions of his party up to the state convention. In 1896 he received the nomination of his party for state's attorney, and although defeated, ran two hundred votes ahead of his ticket, a fact which plainly indicates his popularity and the high regard in which he is uniformly held.

On January 1, 1899, Mr. Thompson dissolved partnership with Mr. Donahue and purchased the Bloomington Sunday Eye and Saturday Truth. In addition to these papers he has started a Saturday evening paper, called the Saturday Evening

Optic, being the only penny paper published in the county. Besides publishing his papers he devotes considerable time to the practice of his profession, and is possessed of the elements of a successful business man.

**JESSE E. BARCLAY.**—More than a third of a century has passed since Jesse E. Barclay became a resident of McLean county, and for many years he has been known as one of the most progressive, enterprising and practical farmers of Dale township. The success that he has achieved in life is due entirely to his own efforts, and his excellent property is a monument of his diligence and business ability.

He was born in Madison county, Kentucky, January 4, 1850, a son of William F. and Mary Jane (Roberts) Barclay. The father was also a native of Madison county, was reared to farm life there and after attaining his majority married Miss Roberts, a daughter of Jesse Roberts, one of the early pioneers of that locality. Mr. Barclay carried on farming in Kentucky, but was not a slave owner. In 1855 he removed with his family to Boone county, Missouri, locating near Columbia, where he carried on agricultural pursuits until 1865. He was there throughout the period of the Civil war and both sides used his farm as a place for forage. Our subject remembers seeing seventy-five of General Merrill's horses fed off his father's oats. In 1865 the family came to Allen township, McLean county, Illinois, where William F. Barclay purchased a farm and made his home until his death, which occurred in November, 1895. In his political affiliations he was a Democrat, and religiously was connected

with the Christian church, of which his widow is also a member. She is still living on the old homestead, and as did her husband, shares in the warm regard of many friends.

Jesse E. Barclay obtained his preliminary education in the schools of Missouri, but the troublous war times prevented his consecutive attendance in the school room. He was fifteen years of age when he came to McLean county with his parents and here he completed a good, practical education which well fitted him for business life. He was early trained to habits of industry and remained upon his father's farm until twenty-seven years of age, when he rented land near by and carried on agricultural pursuits on his own account. In 1877 he was married and soon afterward purchased his present farm, comprising one hundred seventeen and a half acres in Dale township. There were no improvements upon the place save one tree, and the present beautiful maple grove which now shades the house and lawn was planted by Mrs. Barclay. Mr. Barclay erected a commodious and substantial residence, good barns and all the necessary outbuildings, and now has one of the valuable farms of his township. In addition to the cultivation of the fields he is also engaged in stock raising and in both branches of his business is meeting with gratifying success.

On the 22d of February, 1877, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Barclay and Miss Elizabeth Moran, daughter of John H. and Jemima (Carson) Moran, the former a native of New York City, and the latter of Trenton, New Jersey. Her paternal grandfather was captain of a vessel and was lost at sea. Her father loyally served his country in the Mexican war, and in order to

support his family carried on agricultural pursuits. After his marriage he located in Trenton, New Jersey, where he made his home until the 5th of March, 1857, when he took up his abode in this county, living on a farm in McLean township. At the time of the civil war he responded to the President's call for three-years' troops. After faithfully serving for two years of that time he was one day detailed to act as guard to some prisoners on a flat car and was shot by a bushwhacker, the ball penetrating his right lung, passing through the body and breaking his right arm. On account of the disability thus occasioned he was honorably discharged, but recovered from his injuries and lived until March, 1890, his death occurring in Quincy, Illinois. His wife died twenty-eight years ago. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Barclay have been born three children: Anna, Henry Otto and Howard Ellis. The elder son is now attending business college in Bloomington; Anna is a teacher, and in the winter of 1899 taught the Covell school.

In politics, Mr. Barclay is a Democrat, and was once the nominee for road commissioner, but his party being in the minority he was defeated. Both he and his wife are consistent members of the Christian church at Stanford, and in the community where they have so long resided are widely and favorably known.

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JOSEPH B. BARGER is a young man who has early reached a position of prominence in the business and literary circles of Normal. He is the proprietor and manager of the Morning Call, and is one of Illinois' native sons, having been born in Shawneetown, Gallatin county, November

3, 1874. He is the eldest son of Harrison C. and Mary (Morse) Barger, the latter a native of Vermont, and the former of Kentucky, who came to Illinois with his parents when but a few months old, and was a continuous resident of the state of his adoption, until his death in 1880. At the breaking out of the civil war, in 1861, he enlisted in Company D, Second Illinois Light Artillery, known as Dresser's Battery, and served throughout the war, receiving his commission as second lieutenant, and shortly being promoted to the first lieutenantcy. He was with Sherman on his march to the sea, and in all the battles of the western army. He continued in the services of his country until the close of the war, receiving an honorable discharge. He was at one time associated with a partner in the drug and book business in Shawneetown, and was thus engaged up to the time of his death. The grandfather of our subject, Joseph B. Barger, served as sheriff of Gallatin county for a number of years, and was appointed postmaster at Shawneetown, which position he held for some years. He was a very prominent figure in Gallatin county, during his life-time, and was county clerk for twenty-six years, his son Harrison C. acting as his assistant a portion of the time. Both were connected with the Masonic Order. In religious views were Methodists in faith and practice. The father's death was the result of an injury received during the civil war. His wife now makes her home in Normal. The family consisted of four children, namely: Joseph B., the subject of this sketch; Thomas M.; Helen M.; and Carter, deceased.

Joseph commenced his education in Shawneetown, completing it in Normal, where he removed in 1883. His first busi-

ness enterprise was in the office of the Morning Call, as a member of the company, then known by the firm name of B. S. Wright & Company. On the 8th of July, 1897, he and his brother Thomas bought the business, conducting it until January, 1898, under the name of Barger Brothers. Our subject then became its sole proprietor, acting also as its manager. The Morning Call is a semi-weekly paper, and is devoted principally to the business interests of Normal and the community. Aside from his connection with the Morning Call, Mr. Barger runs in conjunction with Clarence A. Burner a general job printing business in which he has been very successful. He is a man of much penetration and discernment, pleasing in personality, and cordial in manner. He has improved his talents to the best advantage, and his present high standing in Normal is the result. Fraternally he is a member of the Modern Woodman, and politically, a staunch and unswerving Republican.

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**WILLIAM WALLACE BUTTOLPH.**  
—The deserved reward of a well-spent life is an honored retirement from business, in which to enjoy the fruits of former toil. To-day, after a useful and beneficial career, Mr. Buttolph is quietly living at his beautiful home on East Grove street, Bloomington, surrounded by the comfort that earnest labor has brought him.

He was born in Middlebury, Vermont, May 2, 1827, a son of David and Almira (Little) Buttolph. The father was born on the same farm, in May, 1787, and was reared to agricultural pursuits, which he followed throughout life, becoming the owner of one of the largest farms in the east, it compris-



ing over four hundred acres. He died upon that place, June 30, 1869, honored and revered by all who knew him. In connection with general farming he engaged in sheep raising. His wife was a native of Shoreham, Vermont, and a daughter of Erastus Little, but as her mother died when she was quite young, she was reared by her uncle, Solomon Bissel. Her death occurred in August, 1840, when our subject was thirteen years of age. She was a consistent member of the Congregational church and a most estimable lady. In the family were six children, four sons and two daughters.

Mr. Buttolph traces his ancestry back to Saint Botolph, who died in 680 A. D., and was commemorated June 17. He was educated in Germany with his brother Adolph, after which they became monks, and on his return to England, through the favor of King Ethelmond, he was granted a site and began building a monastery, it is thought, near the present site of the Cathedral of Saint Botolph at Boston, England, which place derived its name from Saint Botolph's town. He was a prominent man and the patron saint of the fishermen. The relics of Saint Botolph were distributed by the Bishop of Winchester (A. D. 934-984) among several monasteries. On the coat of arms of the family was "All for conscience sake." The first of the family to come to America were Thomas and Ann Buttolph, who landed at Boston in 1635, coming from Raynham, Norfolk county, England. From this worthy couple Wendell Phillips was also descended. Thomas Buttolph was made a freeman and owned Copp's Hill, Boston, Massachusetts. His descendants in direct line to our subject were John, George, Elijah and David.

Our subject's grandfather, Elijah But-

tolph, was born in 1742, at or near Salisbury, Connecticut, and was a son of George Buttolph, of Salisbury, who, with three brothers, was a member of a Connecticut regiment in the Revolutionary war and was discharged in New York City as a non-commissioned officer. Elijah Buttolph was three times married and the children by the first union were reared in Salisbury. His second wife was Mrs. Deborah Plumley. He purchased land at Middlebury, Vermont, and became one of the old and well-known residents of that place, where he spent his remaining days. He was the fifth member of the Congregational church at Middlebury and a most excellent man.

William W. Buttolph began his education in the district schools near his childhood home, and later attended an academy in Middlebury. He remained on the home farm, assisting his father in its operation until he attained his majority. On the 17th of February, 1850, he was united in marriage with Miss Mary A. Manny, of Middlebury, a daughter of Hugh Manny. Five daughters were born of this union, but three died when young, these being Mary, Nelly and an infant unnamed. Those living are Isadore E., now the widow of Elwood Brown, whose grandfather fought at the battles of Concord and Lexington during the Revolutionary war; and Jennie B., wife of Calvin Rayburn, an attorney, of Bloomington, by whom she has two sons, William B. and Allan B.

After his marriage Mr. Buttolph went to Lawrence, Massachusetts, where he was employed on the construction of the Pemberton mills, setting up the machinery, and he also worked in the machinery department of the old Atlantic cotton mills. Returning to his native state he located at Rutland and



entered the Rutland & Burlington Railroad shops, where he was foreman until coming west in 1858, being connected with the Illinois Central Railroad for a time. In the spring of 1861 he came to Bloomington and for thirteen years had charge of the passenger car department of the Chicago & Alton Railroad, during which time great changes were made in the cars. He invented and patented a devise for ventilating cars which was a wonderful improvement at that time, and was used by the Wabash and Chicago & Alton roads. He was connected with the latter road when there was such a demand for cars to convey soldiers south during the civil war, and some very poor ones had to be used. In 1873 he went to Hearne, Texas, as master car builder for the International & Great Northern Railroad, but not liking either the politics or the people of that region, he resigned his position at the end of a year and returned north. He then took charge of the freight department of the Alton Railroad at Bloomington, with which he was connected until about a year ago, when he retired from active life to spend his remaining years in ease and quiet. He has seen a most wonderful change take place in the railroad service since he first became identified with it, and he has held some very important and responsible positions with different roads.

Prior to his marriage, Mr. Buttolph was made a Mason at Union Lodge, No. 2, F. & A. M., Middlebury, Vermont, and was one of the charter members of Wade Barney Lodge, No. 512, F. & A. M., in Bloomington. He assisted in organizing Grace Methodist Episcopal church, but would not accept office in the same, although he has always been one of its active and prominent members, as is also his wife. In early life

she was an Episcopalian. They are now identified with the First Methodist Episcopal church. Their first home in Bloomington he erected on the west side, but for the past five years they have lived in East Grove street. They have a large circle of friends and acquaintances in the city and are held in high regard by all who know them. Mr. Buttolph is an honored member of the Sons of the American Revolution. His two daughters are members of the Daughters of the Revolution.

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DANIEL S. OTTO is extensively engaged in farming in Dale township, where he owns one hundred and sixty acres of land, but operates altogether four hundred acres. He was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, July 15, 1856, and is of German lineage. His parents were Christian and Catherine (Brennemann) Otto. Both the paternal and maternal grandfathers of our subject were natives of Germany. His father was for some years a farmer in Pennsylvania, and on emigrating westward took up his residence in Allin township, McLean county, where he purchased land and made his home until 1866, when he removed to Nebraska. He was a well-known and successful farmer and when his five sons were all at home they used five teams in operating an extensive tract of land, thus carrying on farming on a large scale. They are both still living. While in Pennsylvania they held membership in the Omish church, but afterward united with the Mennonite church.

Daniel S. Otto, of this review, has spent nearly his entire life in McLean county. To its public-school system he is indebted for the educational privileges he

enjoyed. His business training was received upon his father's farm, where he remained, not only until he had attained his majority but for four years thereafter. He began farming on his own account in Allin township, where he remained for two years. He was married January 10, 1888, to Miss Mary E. Springer, a daughter of Peter D. Springer, who is one of the extensive land owners of McLean county. He has a valuable farm of two hundred and forty-five acres, upon which our subject now resides; one hundred and sixty acres in Dale township, south of Covell, and a farm in Allin township, but is living retired in Stanford. Mrs. Otto was born and reared in Allin township, and her marriage has been blessed with three children: Edna, Lola and Alma.

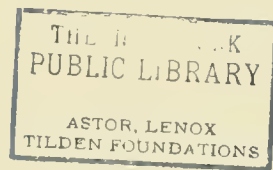
After his marriage, Mr. Otto operated his father-in-law's farm in Allin township until in 1893, when he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Dale township. Here he has since resided and in addition to his property he cultivates his father-in-law's farm, the two aggregating four hundred acres. He is accounted one of the leading agriculturists of his community and his well-tilled fields at once indicate to the passer-by the care and cultivation of a progressive owner. He has about one hundred and ninety acres planted to corn, and this crop he feeds to his stock. He is quite extensively engaged in raising horses, cattle and hogs and is meeting with a well-merited prosperity. His business methods are systematic and honorable and commend him to the confidence of all with whom he has dealings.

Mr. Otto has taken quite an active interest in public affairs and exercises his right of franchise in support of the men

and measures of the Democratic party. The cause of education finds in him a warm friend and he has done effective service in this interest while acting as school trustee and director. He has also been assessor of the township, and for a number of years has served on the Democratic township committee. Both he and his wife are members of the Mennonite church and their many excellent qualities have gained them the friendship of Dale township's best people.

GEORGE CHAMPION, the leading hardware and agricultural implement dealer of Normal, Illinois, established his present business here in 1867, almost a third of a century ago. He was born in Bristol, England, February 24, 1840, and is the son of George and Eleanor (Ellis) Champion, both of whom were natives of the same country. George Champion, Sr., for many years made the city of Bristol his home, and from that port followed the sea, engaging in business as a merchantman, owning his own vessels and visiting many foreign ports. He died on the coast of Africa when our subject was but four years old. His wife, who was a daughter of Thomas Ellis, was born in Bridgewater, England, which place she made her home until her marriage with Mr. Champion, when they settled in Bristol. Thomas Ellis was the owner of a farm near Bridgewater, and while he gave a part of his time to overseeing its cultivation, the greater part of his active life was spent as superintendent of a large bridge foundry. His wife was a Miss Bright, an own cousin of the well-known John Bright.

After the death of her husband, Mrs. Eleanor Champion remained in Bristol, un-



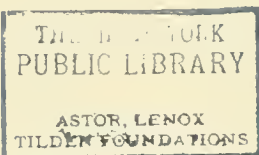


GEORGE CHAMPION.





MRS. GEORGE CHAMPION.



til her removal to the United States in 1854. The death of her husband left her with four children, as follows: Philip, a half brother of our subject, became a seaman, and was later a mate on a ship running from Boston to Vera Cruz, Mexico. He came to the United States prior to the removal of the rest of the family. While returning from a trip to Vera Cruz, his death occurred, and he was buried at sea, in the Gulf of Mexico. Athaliah Victoria Bright is now making her home with her mother in Elgin, Illinois. George is the subject of this sketch. Thomas E. is now living in Normal. On coming to the United States, the family located at Elgin, Illinois, taking up their home there on the 4th of October, 1854, and there the mother and daughter have since continued to reside. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

The subject of this sketch received his education at Bristol, and was a graduate of the military school there. Immediately after his graduation the family emigrated to the United States, and soon after their arrival at Elgin he commenced to learn the wagon maker's trade, but not liking it, he soon left his employer and commenced the carpenters's trade, serving a regular apprenticeship. After completing his trade, and while still residing in Elgin, he worked for about eighteen months as a journeyman. Not being able, however, to stand the hot weather, while working out in the sun, he was compelled to abandon his trade. This was during the panic of 1857, and the hard times succeeding, and there was very little employment for any one. He secured a situation in a grocery store, and his employer being taken sick soon after, the entire charge of the store devolved upon him for about sixteen months. This was

the first opportunity that he had to demonstrate his business ability, and his administration of affairs was such as to commend him to his employer and give him a little reputation in the business world. He continued in the store until just prior to the breaking out of the civil war, when he took a position with the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Company as brakeman, and later as baggage-master, continuing to be thus employed for a year and a half. He remained on the road until he was in a collision in which the engineer was killed, which sickened him of railroad life. He then went into the shops of the Chicago & Northwestern Railway Company, at Chicago, working under instruction in the machine shops. He remained with the company until his removal to Normal. Previous to this, however, in 1862, he enlisted in Company B, Sixty-ninth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, for one hundred days, his regiment being assigned to garrison duty, guarding rebel prisoners at Fort Douglas, Chicago.

On the 8th of May, 1867, Mr. Champion located in Normal, and engaged in the agricultural implement business, in connection with the hardware and tinware trade, having as a partner his brother Thomas, the firm being known as Champion Brothers. They were among the first to engage in business in Normal, and probably the first in their line. They had a good business from the start. In 1877 Mr. Champion purchased the interest of his brother and has since continued alone, and having one of the largest establishments of its kind in this section, and doing a very successful business. After about seven years, the firm abandoned the agricultural implement part of the business, in consequence of the

ruinous competition following the organization of the granges, or Patrons of Husbandry. During the present year the agricultural implement business was resumed to give employment to his sons

On the 6th of January, 1869, Mr. Champion was united in marriage with Miss Hattie Baker, daughter of Hiram Baker, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work, and by this union there were five children, one of whom, Ralph, died November 2, 1880, at the age of fourteen months. Gertie B. married William J. Burwell, and they have four children—Clyde C., Alice May, Harold Baker and Clarence Goodfellow. They reside in Normal. George, Jr., married Miss Emily Moore and they have one child, Esther Frances. He is now associated with his father in business. Frank Baker married Miss Virgie Fisher, and they make their home in Bloomington. Myrtle Marie yet remains at home. Mrs. Champion was called to her reward December 17, 1898, and her death was calm and sweet, for "she knew in whom she believeth." She was a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and had the utmost faith in the teachings of the Divine Master. In all departments of church work she took an active interest, and for some time was president of the Foreign Missionary Society of her church. She was also a member of Felicity Chapter, No. 387, O. E. S., and served as worthy matron of the order. The chapter passed a series of resolutions on her death which appeared in the Bloomington Bulletin. The G. A. R. Post, of Normal, also passed resolutions of condolence, she being an active member of the Relief Corps. A kind, Christian woman, she was a friend to all her neighbors, and to any one who needed her help. Her happy,

cheerful disposition endeared her to a large circle of friends who deeply mourn her loss. A loving wife and affectionate mother, her death is a sad blow to the loved ones left behind, but they sorrow not as one without hope, but look forward to the re-union in the "sweet by and bye."

Fraternally Mr. Champion is a member of Normal Lodge, F. & A. M., No. 673, of which he was master for four years, and representative to the grand lodge seven terms, and secretary of the lodge for eleven years. He is also a member of the Bloomington Chapter, No. 26, R. A. M., and of DeMolay Commandery, No. 24, K. T. In each of the latter organizations he has refused office on account of lack of time. He is a member of the Charles E. Hovey Post, No. 786, G. A. R., of which he is past commander. Since attaining his majority, he has been a strong Republican, and an earnest advocate of the principles of the party. He served one term as alderman of the city, and was three times mayor of Normal. He also served four years as clerk of the town council, and was treasurer of the corporation for three years. While serving as mayor of the city he was instrumental in securing the electric light system for street lighting, and also in making a number of needed improvements. For one year he served as collector of the city of Normal, and the following year was deputy collector, during which time he did all the business connected with the office. He was also a member of the board of education for five years, two years and a half of the time being president of the board. It was during his incumbency of the office that the primary school building was erected, and the question of fraudulent bonds that had been issued by former



school boards came up for consideration. It was decided by the board to contest the payment of the bonds and the question was carried up and the bonds declared null and void by the United States District Courts. Much credit for the result is due to the efforts of Mr. Champion. In addition to the public offices mentioned in which he has served, he has filled other important positions and been on a number of important committees.

For many years Mr. Champion has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal church in Normal, and since his first connection with that body has been a member of the board of trustees, and for years chairman of the board. He has also been secretary of the official board of the church since the board was organized. When the present house of worship was being erected he served as chairman of the building committee, a position which he was well qualified to fill. It is probable that no man in Normal has been more active in promoting the business interests and moral welfare of the community, and where best known he is held in the highest respect.

**G**EORGE H. LEWIS, the well-known and popular agent of the Lake Erie & Western Railroad at Bloomington, was born near Covington, Franklin county, Indiana, April 8, 1864, and is a son of Eber and Elizabeth (Stewart) Lewis, natives of Oswego county, New York, the former born in 1816, the latter in 1819. After their marriage, which was celebrated in Oswego, they removed to Franklin county, Indiana, being among the early settlers of that locality. Coming to Illinois in 1858, they located near Homer, Vermillion county, where the fa-

ther purchased a tract of wild land, and to its cultivation and improvement devoted his attention for some years. He returned to Indiana in 1866 and this time took up his residence near State Line City, Warren county, where he bought land and engaged in general farming until called from this life in 1881. There his widow still resides. Of the six children born to them, our subject is the fifth in order of birth.

During his boyhood, George H. Lewis attended the common schools of Vermillion county, Illinois, and State Line City, Indiana, and later attended the Mayhew Business College, of Danville, Illinois, from which he was graduated. He also graduated from Danville high school in 1872, then known as Danville College, and it was two years later that he completed the course in the business college. He attended the Teachers Normal School at Danville in 1876, and after that engaged in school teaching and farming until the winter of 1879-80. The following spring he commenced learning telegraphy at Bismarck, on the Chicago & Eastern Illinois Railroad, and was connected with that road as extra and regular operator until the winter of 1882-3, when he entered the service of the Lake Erie & Western Railroad in the office of which he now has charge. From the 6th of February, 1883, he served as day operator and also as chief until the summer of 1890, when he was transferred by the company to Paxton, Ford county, Illinois, where he served as agent for nine years. In March, 1891, he was appointed agent at Bloomington, having charge of both the ticket and freight departments at both places. Through his able management the interests of the company have been advanced, he has built up a large and rapidly increasing

business, and his personal popularity in Bloomington and with many patrons of the road has done much to promote its interests. Its business here has doubled during his incumbency, and never have the affairs of the road been better managed. He has a number of men working under him, whose high regard he holds.

On the 3d of October, 1892, Mr. Lewis was united in marriage with Miss Mary Malone, of La Salle, Illinois. She died January 2, 1899, leaving a little daughter, Nellie.

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JAMES W. TAVENNER, supreme secretary and chief deputy of the Pioneer Reserve Association, is one of the most enterprising and progressive business men of Bloomington. He was born near McConnellsville, Ohio, July 10, 1851, and is a son of Joseph R. and Nancy J. (Young) Tavenner. The paternal grandfather, Jonah Tavenner, was born in Loudon county, Virginia, and died at the age of eighty-three. His wife was born in District of Columbia and died at age of seventy years. The grandmother was one of the girls who strewed flowers in the path of Washington when he entered Washington, D. C. The father of our subject was born November 11, 1827, in Loudon county, Virginia, but was only three years old when taken by his parents to Ohio, and near McConnellsville he grew to manhood. He followed farming continuously until 1859, when he was elected county recorder of Morgan county, Ohio, which office he most acceptably filled for three full terms, but resigned on coming to McLean county, Illinois, in December, 1868. In 1875 he removed to Vermillion county, Illinois, and in 1883 moved to Bloomington,

and in 1885 removed to Normal. While living in Vermillion county he engaged in farming, also served as township assessor for three years. For the past twelve years he has served as assessor of Normal. Both he and his wife are faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in early life took a very active part in its work. She is a native of Belmont county, Ohio, born March 23, 1830. They are the parents of five children, namely: James W., our subject; Charles A., also a resident of Bloomington; Emma J., wife of Frank Fisher, of Duluth, Minnesota; and Ella L., at home, and Eva, who died in infancy. The family is well-known and has the respect of all.

James W. Tavenner completed the course in the public schools of McConnellsville, Ohio. After the removal of the family to this county, he assisted his father on the home farm, and accompanied them on their removal to Vermillion county, returning here in December, 1876, entered the Normal University with the intention of preparing himself for a teacher. He entered upon his chosen profession as a teacher in the district school near his home, in the meantime continuing his studies at Normal, where he graduated in 1888. Later he was principal of the schools at Williamsville for two years; superintendent of the schools of Le Roy the same length of time; and principal of a ward school in Bloomington for two years, being offered each position without his solicitation. The following two years he was superintendent of the schools of Chillicothe, this state, and taught in the Kankakee County Teachers' Institute for one year, his time being entirely occupied by educational affairs until June, 1896. He was then district manager for the

Northwestern Life Assurance Company, of Chicago, in McLean county, for one year, and later became interested in the University Association work of Chicago, which grew out of the World's Fair, being district manager for a number of counties until December, 1897, when he entered fraternal insurance work in the employ of the Royal Circle of Springfield.

In April, 1898, Mr. Tavenner organized the Pioneer Reserve Association, doing all the work of getting up the constitution and by-laws, and all manuscripts and forms pertaining to the business with the exception of the medical department. It is a fraternal order on broad principles and conducted on safe, progressive business methods, with a self-controlling reserve fund for the protection of its members against assessments in excess of twelve in any one year. Its officers are among the most prominent and reliable business men of central Illinois, being C. F. Koch, mayor of Bloomington, supreme president; Judge Joseph W. Maple, of Peoria, vice-president; J. W. Tavenner, supreme secretary; C. J. Moyer, cashier of the Corn Belt Bank, of Bloomington, supreme treasurer; S. P. Robinson, supreme counsel; Dr. D. H. Nusbaum, supreme medical director; Hon. S. S. Tanner, of Minier, supreme orator; C. C. Hassler, editor of "The Pioneer"; E. A. Simmons, of Pontiac, supreme guide; Edgar Phillips, of Stanford, supreme guard; and F. G. White, of Pontiac, supreme sentry. The directors of the association are T. S. Davy, of Lincoln; A. C. Ball, of Pontiac; Duett Brown, of Normal; Dr. M. S. Marcy, of Peoria; and D. R. Amerman, J. W. Rodgers and Paul Finnan, all of Bloomington. The auditing committee consists of Dr. John R. Barnett, of Lincoln; Prof. R. O. Graham, of Bloom-

ington; and Hon. A. J. Scrogin, of Lexington. Although the association was not incorporated until September 8, 1898, it has already met with most remarkable success, having about one thousand members by the 1st of January, 1899. The success of the enterprise is due almost wholly to Mr. Tavenner, who has attested his eminent and pronounced ability as a business man and financier. He is a man of keen discrimination and sound judgment, and has become an important factor in the business circles of Bloomington. His strict integrity and honorable dealing commend him to the confidence of all; his pleasant manner wins him friends; and he is one of the popular and honored citizens of Bloomington.

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REV. JOSEPH MONTGOMERY, of Normal, deceased, was born near Shephardstown, Jefferson county, West Virginia, on the 10th of October, 1812. His paternal grandfather was Thomas Montgomery, a native of County Tyrone, Ireland, and came to this land of freedom in 1770. He acted as valet to General Washington during the Revolutionary war, and at its close removed to Maryland, where his death occurred. He had one son, Thomas Montgomery, Jr., who was born September 9, 1798, and who was a prosperous farmer. Thomas Jr. married Miss Catherine Hawn, by whom he had nine children, our subject being second in order of birth. Of these nine children only three survive. He died June 9, 1831. Joseph, the subject of this review, was reared and educated in Wheeling, West Virginia, and after completing his education taught school for a time and then entered a general store as a clerk. His religious inclinations and



influence and his natural ability, combined with a midnight dream, influenced his mind to such a degree that, with the sanction of the church, he prepared himself for the work of salvation. His first religious impressions were in his early youth, when he united with the Methodist Episcopal church, and his faithfulness and rapid development soon furnished evidence of his call to the ministry. In 1837 he was received on trial into the Pittsburg Conference, having previously worked under the presiding elder. He labored successfully for fifteen years, with the following charges: Lewis, New Lisbon, Hanover, Knoxville, Deersville, Leesburg, Carrollton, Smithfield, St. Clairville, Bridgewater, Salem, and Uniontown, Pennsylvania. He was ordained deacon at Clarksburg, West Virginia, in 1840, by Bishop Morris; and ordained elder, in 1841, by Bishop Roberts, in Pittsburg. In 1852 he was transferred to the Illinois Conference, where he spent forty-five years, and where he was residing when called to his Master. In this conference he served the following places: Rushville; Waverly; Clinton; Lincoln; Mechanicsburg; Decatur circuit; Quincy, Fifth street; Payson; Turn Grove, and Covell; Champaign University charge; Bement; agent Preachers' Aid Society; Rantoul; Taylorville; Illiopolis; Monticello; Arcola; Mahomet; and Warrensburg. In 1882 he was granted a supernumerary relation, and in 1883 his relation was changed to a superannuated one, which he sustained for thirteen years.

Mr. Montgomery was twice married, first to Miss Mary Tidd, of Woodfield, Ohio, in 1833, who died in 1871. Five children were born to them, two sons and three daughters. Of this number three are still living—Mrs. S. F. Wessel, Mrs. A. B. Sloan and

Reverend Homer B. The second marriage of our subject was with Miss Rachel Salisbury, of Camargo, Illinois, which took place in 1880. Joseph Montgomery was a great lover of books, and a forcible and eloquent preacher, as his work testifies, impressive and sometimes impassioned. As a pastor and citizen he was one of God's noblemen. His convictions of right were strong, and his courage stanch enough to defend them. He was an obliging neighbor, an affectionate husband, a loving father, and was a light upon God's earth. He was among the oldest and most respected members of his conference, and only omitted one roll-call in fifty years. His illness was short and his end glorious. He departed to his heavenly rest on the 22d of August, 1896, at the advanced age of eighty-three years, ten months and twelve days.

Mrs. Rachel Montgomery, the widow of our subject, is a daughter of the Reverend A. Salisbury, and his wife, Cyrena, natives of Ohio, who were born February 9, 1817, and September 22, 1822, respectively. They were married September 20, 1838, and were the parents of six children, three of whom are living. Mr. Salisbury was a minister of considerable prominence in the Methodist Episcopal church, and took his first appointment in 1847. He traveled for ten years, but owing to declining health was obliged to give up the work of the ministry. He died February 6, 1899, having reached his eighty-third year. His wife, Cyrena, died July 28, 1888.

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DANIEL DUNMIRE, one of the most prominent and influential citizens of Normal, was born in Mifflin county, Pennsylvania, May 11, 1822. His parents were



Henry and Peggy (Swartz) Dunmire, natives of Pennsylvania. The former was a carpenter by occupation and also a farmer of some note. At the time of the civil war he was a war Democrat in his political convictions, but afterward became a Republican. He was an energetic and upright man of business and was always ready to do a good act and help those who were in need of his assistance. He and his wife were members of the Evangelical Association. They lived to reach the ages of sixty-three and seventy-three respectively.

The subject of this sketch is the third in order of birth of ten children, five of whom are living. He was reared in the town of his birth and there received his education. When seventeen years of age his parents moved to a farm in Cambria county, Pennsylvania, where he assisted in clearing a farm, also engaging in the lumber business. He remained with his father until reaching his twenty-fifth year, and after his father's death, which occurred about that time, purchased a portion of the homestead, containing two hundred and eighty acres, two hundred and twenty of which were his by right of inheritance. He also owned and operated a saw-mill in company with two of his brothers, which, owing to his excellent business ability and good management, was very successful. In 1863, finding that he was overtaxing his strength and breaking in health, he sold his interests in Pennsylvania and came to Illinois, where he purchased two hundred acres of improved land in Kappa, and commenced farming on a very extensive scale. In 1890 he purchased his charming home in Normal where he now resides, and where, in his declining years, he lives on the fruits of an active and well spent life.

On the 22th of April, 1847, Mr. Dunmire was joined in marriage to Miss Maria Rorabaugh, who was born in Germany September 28, 1828, and who came to this country at the early age of two years. The ten children of this happy union are here named in order of birth: Mary, deceased; Josiah; Lucinda; Wesley; Hattie; Frank; Oliver, deceased; Sarah; and two who died in infancy. During his residence in Kappa Mr. Dunmire was elected to several offices of trust and responsibility which he filled in a manner very gratifying to the community. Among them were the offices of school director and road commissioner. He is a strong Prohibitionist and votes for the downfall of that traffic which dethrones reason and makes man lower than the brute creation. Mr. Dunmire is not a member of any denomination but is attached to that body which believe in complete holiness. He is well versed in the scriptures and endeavors to practice what they teach, observing those principles which teach him his duty, first to God and then to his neighbor.

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THOMAS C. CARLISLE, who is now living a retired life in Chenoa, has for forty years been a resident of that city, and this volume would be incomplete without a record of his life. During the greater part of his residence in Chenoa he has been identified with its interests and has become an active factor in its development, a promoter of many of its enterprises and a citizen of worth, whose loyalty to the public welfare is above question. He was born in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, March 28, 1831, and is a son of Henry and Mary (Griffin) Carlisle, both natives of Pennsylvania. The former was a gunsmith by oc-

cupation, and died in his native state. Of their five children three are living, Thomas C. being fourth in order of birth. He grew to manhood in his native village and in the district school received his primary education, which was supplemented by attendance at the Big Spring Academy. After completing his studies, he taught in various towns in Pennsylvania, until 1855 when he came west, locating in Chenoa, where he also taught for a time. After a residence of a few years he purchased a farm of eighty acres near Lexington, where he worked for six years, teaching school during the winter seasons. In 1860 he removed to Lexington where he opened a grocery, and in 1862 he sold his stock and became a dealer in meats, traveling between Chenoa and Lexington for seven years. At the expiration of this time he returned to Chenoa, where he was employed by the Chicago & Alton, and the Pittsburg & Fort Wayne Railroads as baggage-master, and a few years later as agent for the United States Express Company.

On the 9th of March, 1854, Mr. Carlisle was united in marriage to Miss Rebecca McCahren, who was born in Chester county, Pennsylvania, and is a daughter of John McCahren. Three children have come to bless this union, namely: Mary J. L., Martha A., and John H., superintendent of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad, whose present position and high business standing are due to his own enterprise and sterling qualities. Mr. and Mrs. Carlisle are prominent attendants of the Presbyterian church. They are ever ready to help those in need of their assistance, and join in each project for the elevation and benefit of humanity. In his political convictions, Mr. Carlisle is a Democrat, and during the time that he

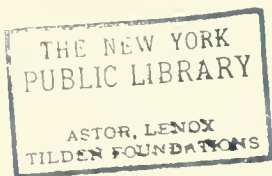
served the public officially, he has made an admirable record, giving equal satisfaction as police magistrate and alderman, serving in the former capacity for four years and the latter eight years. He is a man of distinctive ability, and his character is above a shadow of reproach. He is upright and just in all his dealings, and is highly respected by those who have been at all familiar with his honorable and useful career.

**LYMAN FERRE.** Few men were more prominent or more widely known in the enterprising city of Bloomington than this gentleman, who was called to his final rest December 1, 1897. He was an important factor in business circles and his popularity was well deserved, as in him were embraced the characteristics of an unbending integrity, unabated energy and industry that never flagged. He was public-spirited and thoroughly interested in whatever tended to promote the welfare of the city.

Mr. Ferre was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, December 16, 1818, and was a son of Solomon Ferre and Margaret (Rumrill) Ferre, who were of English and French descent. The father was born April 9, 1780, and died about 1850, while the mother was born in 1781, and died August 19, 1844. She belonged to a very old and prominent family of Springfield, Massachusetts. The father of Solomon Ferre was an officer in the Revolutionary war. In his native city our subject was educated and learned the wagon maker's trade, remaining a resident of that city until coming to Bloomington, Illinois, in 1840. Here he worked at his trade for others for three years, and then opened a shop of his own



LYMAN FERRE.





where the old post office building now stands, on Front street, near the corner of Center. He engaged in carriage and wagon making with his brother Goodman Ferre and John L. Wolcott until March, 1843, when he left the business with those gentlemen and started for California across the plains, taking some capital with him. A friend that was with him on the trip speaks in the highest terms of praise of his faithfulness and reliability in every emergency on that long, tedious, and at that time dangerous journey. His California experience was a very profitable one for those days. The belt in which he carried his gold dust is still a valued relic in the family. He also embarked in the cattle business on a small ranch. After an absence of about two years he returned to Illinois by way of the Isthmus of Panama, New Orleans and St. Louis, where he was quarantined on account of cholera but finally reached home in safety, but suffered from the effects of that dread disease for years afterwards.

On his return to Bloomington, Mr. Ferre resumed business with the old firm on Front street and from that time forward he seemed to prosper in all his undertakings. He very soon bought out Mr. Wolcott's interest in the business and soon afterward his brother Goodman retired from the firm, leaving him sole proprietor. It was not long before his old shop at the corner of Front and Center streets was destroyed by fire, and in 1876 he erected the large fine building known as the Masonic Temple, the lower floor of which was rented to the United States government for a postoffice, the first contract being for ten years and a renewal for ten years, or until the new postoffice building was erected, which was twenty-five years in all as a postoffice. The entire

third floor was devoted to Masonic uses. He also continued to carry on his business of carriage and wagon making in his buildings adjoining there for many years. In the meantime Mr. Ferre obtained a charter from the legislature for a street railway from Bloomington to Normal, which he built, owned and operated with a stock company for several years and finally sold to Asa H. Moore. He was a large stockholder in the Peoples Bank and for twenty-four years served as one of its directors and vice-president, filling both positions at the time of his death. Mr. Ferre in later years devoted much time in raising fine horses and Jersey cows. He also imported fine Percheron horses, of which he had his farm in Normal township well stocked. He was active in getting the street railway established in Bloomington, and was the first president of the corporation, in 1867 and 1868. It was mainly through his efforts and those of ex-Governor Routt, of Colorado, that the new court house was built, it being considered very fine at that time. He was a man of keen perception, shrewd and far-sighted, yet honest and reliable in all things, and he occupied a most enviable position in business circles both at home and abroad.

Mr. Ferre married Miss Jeannette E. Hayes, a native of Granby, Connecticut, and a daughter of Amasa and Ruth (Jones) Hayes, who were of old Connecticut stock. The father died in that state, but in 1840 the mother came with her children to Bloomington. Mrs. Ferre was born May 28, 1821, and by her marriage became the mother of three children—a son who died in infancy; Adda, the second child, born in 1852, died in 1873; Belle, the third child, is the wife of W. G. Taylor, of Cleveland, Ohio, and has two

daughters—Gertrude Ferre and Jeannette Elizabeth. Since 1844 the home of the family has been on Center street, and there Mrs. Ferre still resides. She is a member of the Second Presbyterian church, to which Mr. Ferre, though not a member, contributed liberally. Mr. Ferre was a member of Bloomington Lodge, No. 43, F. & A. M.; Bloomington Chapter, R. A. M., and De Molay Commandery, K. T.; and politically was a prominent representative of the Republican party. His record is that of a man who, by his own unaided efforts, worked his way upward to a position of wealth and affluence. In all places and under all circumstances he was loyal to truth, honor and right, justly valuing his own self-respect as infinitely more preferable than fame and position. In those finer traits of character which combine to form that which we term friendship, which endear and attach man to man in bonds which nothing but the stain of dishonor can sever, which triumph and shine brightest in the hour of adversity—in those qualities he was royally endowed. He was always very loyal to the state, county and city of his adoption.

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EDWARD WILSON, one of the prominent farmers of McLean county, residing in Dale township, where he owns and operates three hundred and sixty acres of land, was born near Cazenovia, Madison county, New York, August 6, 1827, a son of William and Lydia (Main) Wilson. The father was born in Beddington, England, near Newcastle-on-Tyne, in 1791, and with his parents, Thomas and Mary Wilson, came to the United States. They located near Cazenovia on land purchased of old Peter Smith, making the journey to

that place by way of the Hudson and Mohawk rivers on a flatboat pushed by a pole. The vessel on which they crossed the Atlantic was the Mary of Glasgow, then one hundred years old, and which only made one trip afterward. In the midst of the forest near Cazenovia, Thomas Wilson made a clearing and developed a good farm upon which he resided for forty years. He spent his last days there, and his wife reached the very advanced age of ninety years, retaining her mental and physical faculties almost unimpaired to the close of her life.

The maternal grandparents of our subject were Thomas and Lydia Main. The former was a native of Connecticut, whence he removed to Mount Vernon, Oneida county, New York, and his death occurred the same year as Thomas Wilson passed away—the year 1822, at which time he was seventy-seven years of age. His wife died in 1825 at the age of eighty-two years.

William Wilson and Lydia Main were married December 14, 1815. For over forty years the father of our subject engaged in farming in New York and then came with his family to the west. He made the journey on a lake steamer from Buffalo to Chicago, arriving in the latter city in June, 1844. With his family he spent the first summer in Joliet, not being able to go further on account of the impassable condition of the roads, caused by heavy rains. In the fall they arrived in McLean county, the father purchasing land and improving a farm in Dale township, where he made his home until 1858, after which he lived a retired life in Bloomington. He had accumulated four hundred and eighty acres of land—a valuable and very desirable property. He was a sup-

porter of the Baptist church and all of his family were members thereof. He died November 19, 1873, and his wife passed away November 23, 1884, at the age of eighty-six years. She was a woman of marked ability, possessed considerable poetical talent and was also exceptionally well informed on political questions, yet never obtruded her opinions on others. The church found in her a devoted friend and her upright life won her the warm esteem of all who knew her. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson were the parents of nine children, all of whom lived to be more than thirty years of age. They are Mrs. Samuel Landers, Mrs. William H. Holmes, who died in Bloomington; A. Judson; Edward; Henry C., who removed from Bloomington to St. Lawrence and is now a resident of Boston, Massachusetts; Mrs. H. G. Hart, of Belleville, New Jersey; Mrs. C. W. Goddard, who died in Brooklyn, New York; Walter C., who died in October, 1853; and Elizabeth, the wife of C. C. Holmes, who died in July, 1863.

Edward Wilson obtained his preliminary education in the common schools and supplemented it by study in Cazenovia Seminary. He was early trained to habits of industry upon the home farm, soon became familiar with all the duties that fall to the lot of the agriculturist, and at the age of eighteen years took charge of the home farm, displaying marked ability in its management. In addition to the cultivation of grains he successfully carried on stock raising and became one of the prominent young men of the township. When his father removed from the township he purchased a part of his present farm, a tract of raw land, upon which not a furrow had been turned nor an improvement made. He did

the first plowing and planting there, erected the first house and in course of time transformed his land into a rich and valuable tract. He erected a fine and commodious residence in 1873, and it is surrounded by a beautiful grove of his own planting. The Wilson home is one of the most attractive in the entire township, and the substantial improvements and well-cultivated fields indicate the enterprise and progressiveness of the owner.

Mr. Wilson was united in marriage to Mrs. Louisa McWhorter, a daughter of John Perry, one of the early settlers of Danvers. He was born in Philadelphia, February 22, 1800, and when a young man went to Jessamine county, Kentucky, whence he came to Illinois in 1836. By trade he was a shoemaker and followed that occupation throughout his entire life. He married Charity Pew, a daughter of Warren Pew, who removed from North Carolina to Kentucky at an early day. Mrs. Wilson was born in the latter state, May 29, 1832, and was brought by her parents to Illinois on the 13th of October, 1836. They located in Dry Grove township, where the father purchased a farm which he cultivated in addition to shoemaking until his retirement from business life. He died in August, 1865, and his wife passed away March 30, 1873. Their daughter Louisa became the wife of Stephen McWhorter, and by that marriage had one son, also named Stephen, who is now one of the prominent citizens of Omaha, Nebraska, and the treasurer of the State Agricultural Society.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson began their domestic life upon the farm which has since been their home, and by their united labors have made it one of the most beautiful and desirable country seats in McLean county.



Four children have been born to them: William W., who is now connected with the Ætna Silk Company, of Chicago; Esther, now the wife of D. M. Davison, of Bloomington, by whom she has two children, Edith E. and Edward H.; and Walter C., who is still at home; and John P., who died August 8, 1872.

As the years have passed and Mr. Wilson has successfully prosecuted his labors he has been enabled to add to his possessions until he is now the owner of three hundred and sixty acres of rich and arable land, all under a high state of cultivation, and is accounted one of the most diligent, practical and enterprising agriculturists of the community. His attention, however, is not directed entirely in this line, as he has found time to faithfully serve his fellow townsmen in public office. He has been township collector, was assessor for six years, and was five times elected justice of the peace, serving fourteen years. For over twenty years he was school director and the cause of education has found in him a warm friend. The day after attaining his majority he cast his first vote and since that time has missed but one election. He has always been a staunch Republican, has frequently served as delegate to the conventions and was in one convention that voted one hundred and fifty-five times for Judge Tipton. He was one of the early members of the Grange, and he and his family all belong to the Baptist church of Bloomington, to the support of which he contributes liberally, taking an active part in its development and upbuilding. He is esteemed as one of the most reliable farmers of Dale township and well deserves representation among the leading citizens of Dale township.

JAMES T. SANDERS, a well-known real-estate dealer and prominent resident of Bloomington, Illinois, was born in Millersburg, Kentucky, December 24, 1840, and is a son of James R. and Martha (Smith) Sanders, both of whom are now deceased, the former dying in 1872, the latter in 1864, during the trying days of the civil war. The father was born in Grafton, New Hampshire, in 1799, and belonged to an old New England family. He was a merchant and land owner. The paternal grandfather, Ezra Sanders, was a life-long resident of the old Granite state, and was a soldier of the Revolutionary war, while the maternal grandfather, Alexander Smith, a farmer of Millersburg, Kentucky, was a soldier of the war of 1812 and a son of a Revolutionary hero. He was a Presbyterian in religious belief, while the paternal grandfather was a Swedenborgian, and the parents were members of the Christian church.

Mr. Sanders, of this review, acquired his elementary education in the schools of Millersburg, and later was a student in the Kentucky Wesleyan University, where he was graduated in 1859. The following year he came to Jacksonville, Illinois, where he learned telegraphy, and continued to follow it until 1883, being located for two years in Joliet, the same length of time at Towanda, and for twenty-five years in Delavan, Illinois, where he had charge of all the Chicago & Alton Railroad business and of the Western Union Telegraph Company. He was one of the incorporators of the Delavan Homestead Building & Loan Association, with which he was connected until leaving that place, and for a number of years served as city clerk. For the past eight years, however, he has been successfully engaged in the building and loan business



in Bloomington, and is interested in other business enterprises. In his undertakings he has met with well-merited success, and is to-day one of the substantial and reliable citizens of that place. He was made a Mason in Delavan Lodge in 1872.

On the 19th of September, 1867, Mr. Sanders was united in marriage with Miss Sue A. Pike, of Bloomington, and to them were born four children, two of whom are now deceased: Augusta died in infancy in 1870; Bernadine M., was born November 28, 1878, died on Memorial day, 1894. Harold Pike, born November 7, 1871, was educated in the Delavan schools and the Normal, Illinois, high school, now with the Wells Fargo Express Company in Chicago. Royal W., born March 25, 1873, was educated in Delavan schools and was one of the youngest students who ever graduated at the State Normal University, being a member of the class of 1892, when only nineteen years of age. He is now professor of mathematics and history of the Bloomington high school. He entered West Point Military Academy on competitive examination in 1894, but came home on account of the death of his only sister. Being refused a re-appointment he lost the advantage of a military education. He was married September 2, 1897, to Miss Della Soverns, of Bloomington.

Mrs. Sanders was born in Casco, Cumberland county, Maine, March 25, 1842, a daughter of Harrison W. and Susan A. (Mayberry) Pike. Her paternal grandfather was Noah Pike, farmer of Fryeburg, Maine, and a descent of John Pike, who came from England to America in 1637 and located at Limerick, Maine. The father was born in Fryeburg, August 19, 1803, and was one of a family of twenty-four children, nearly all

of whom lived to old age. He was a very strong and practical man, as well as a shrewd and capable business man, and was wholly self-educated. On Mayberry Hill, Cumberland county, Maine, he was married October 1, 1837, to Miss Susan A. Mayberry, who was born February 3, 1813, a daughter of Edward and Mary (Johnson) Mayberry. Her grandfather, Captain Richard Mayberry, served with distinction as an officer in the Revolutionary war; his record is found in the Lexington Alarm. The family is an early and prominent one in New England. Harrison W. Pike owned and operated a farm in Casco, Maine, until he and his wife, accompanied by their seven small children, came to Bloomington, Illinois, in 1854. Two brothers, Meshech and Theophilus, also came with him. Here he engaged in general merchandising and speculating and met with excellent success. He was one of the honored pioneers and highly respected citizens of Bloomington. His family attended the Unitarian church. He died June 2, 1877, his wife February 12, 1878. In their family were seven children, all of whom were educated here. They are as follows: Noah H., Sue A., Ivory H., Alpheus H., Anna M. and Mary A. All of the sons were soldiers of the Civil war. Alpheus H. was the youngest soldier, so far as the records show, who enlisted at the beginning of the war, being only fourteen years of age; he enlisted at the beginning of the strife and carried a musket all through that struggle. He was for seven months incarcerated in Andersonville and other war prisons, while Ivory H., now a resident of Chicago, was in the same prisons eleven months. Alpheus H., died suddenly in the fall of 1892, from the effects of his prison life, then drawing a pension of \$2 a month.

Mrs. Sanders began her education in the schools of Casco, Maine, and after coming west with the family attended the Bloomington schools and the State Normal University, after which she taught successfully for six years, the latter part of the time being employed in the schools of Bloomington. After marriage, while residing in Delavan, her time was principally occupied by home duties, but she has always been more or less prominently identified with public affairs along certain lines. She is a member of the Eastern Star, having been state treasurer of the same for twelve consecutive years; also state treasurer of the Woman's Relief Corps for one year; later state president of that organization for one year; at the reunion of the Grand Army of the Republic held at Detroit, Mich., in 1891, she was elected national president of the order. One year later presided over the ever memorable convention held at Washington, D. C.; she was grand vice templar of the Independent Order of Good Templars in 1865-6-7, the highest office a woman could hold in that order at that time. She has always taken considerable interest in school work and everything tending toward reform; but on coming to Bloomington, November, 1892, she determined to keep out of public office. This she could not well do, as the people knew her ability as a leader and the success with which she always met in the management of public affairs. Her first public work here was in connection with the With-er's public library as a trustee, and in 1894 she was elected its president, which office she most efficiently filled for three years, and is now serving as secretary of the same. It is one of the finest libraries in the country and has an income of seven thousand dollars

a year. Mrs. Sanders has become actively interested in the Girls' Industrial home of McLean county, for the care of dependent and defenseless girls. When she became connected with it, it was not in a very prosperous condition, being twenty-five hundred dollars in debt. She accepted the position of president under protest, but knowing the institution needed her aid, she served as such for three years and only resigned to accept the office of secretary—a position hardest to fill. It has steadily prospered under her able management, and to-day the home has three acres of ground belonging to it, all of which is valued at ten thousand dollars. At present it has twenty-five inmates, and many unfortunate girls have been adopted into good families through its influence. Being possessed of good business and executive ability, she has brought the home its present success. In April, 1898, Mrs. Sanders was elected a member of the city board of education, to the duties of which she is now giving special attention, that she may be able to meet all criticisms and successfully fill the duties and obligations of the position. She is a prominent member of the McLean County Historical Society and has lately prepared for the association a complete account of the work of the Sanitary Aid Society of this county, from 1861 to 1866, or during the war of the Rebellion. She is also a member of the Daughters of the Revolution and of the Woman's Club, of which she is first vice-president and a member of the executive board. Mr. and Mrs. Sanders attend and help support the Unitarian church, of which she is a member, and in which she has served as superintendent of the Sunday-school for three years. She is also a member of the board of trustees of the Deaconess Hospital. She has

the credit of being the originator of placing a flag in every school house, hers the first school to have a flag wave in McLean county. The legislature changed the plan to putting it on the outside, which law was later repealed. She also recommended at Washington, in her annual address to the National Womans' Relief Corps, that it be on every ballot box and on every pulpit in the land, believing that the Bible, ballot box and flag should always go together.

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**WILLIAM R. BACH.** Not by gift or purchase, or by influence can one rise at the bar, but solely by merit must he gain his reputation, his ability winning him greatness and enabling him to pass on the highway of life many who perhaps had accomplished a part of the journey ere he started out. Although still a young man, Mr. Bach has already arisen to a position of prominence in the legal profession, and is now most creditably and satisfactorily serving as city attorney for Bloomington.

He was born in that city, December 10, 1871, and is a representative of a prominent German family. His father, William Bach, was born near Stuttgart, province of Wurttemberg, Germany, February 26, 1829, a son of Rev. Frederick Bach, a Lutheran minister, who spent his entire life in that country. In his native city, the father of our subject grew to manhood and was provided with excellent educational advantages, attended the gymnasium and the University of Stuttgart. When a young man of twenty years, he came alone to America, on account of his political beliefs, being one of those who were known as the "forty-niners" who came to this country from

Germany. He was of a free disposition and could not tolerate the form of government there existing. He located first in Philadelphia, where he at once became connected with newspaper work, as a printer in the lithographing department, and soon learned the trade. There he married Miss Sophia Koehler, who was born in Gelnhausen, Germany, October 9, 1836, and when three years old came with her parents, Conrad and Sophia Koehler, to America, settling in Philadelphia. Later her father came to Bloomington, Illinois, being one of the first Germans to locate here, where he lived until his death. Leaving his wife and three children, Mr. Bach enlisted in the Third Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery during the civil war and was in the service for three years and a half, being most of the time at the navy yard at Fortress Monroe. After the close of the war, he started westward, finally locating at Bloomington in 1869. He is a man of considerable breadth of knowledge, having commenced the study of law after leaving college, but he became so disgusted with the laws of his native land, that he left home, wealth and everything to become a citizen of a free country. He is a broad minded and intelligent man and has for thirty years been connected with the Bloomington Pantagraph. He has been a Republican in politics since casting his first vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1860, but has never been an aspirant for office. He was reared in the Lutheran faith, but attends the Methodist Episcopal church, in which his wife and family hold membership. There are four children: Mrs. Louisa Kreiter, of Chicago; Emma, who is connected with Wilcox Brothers dry-goods store, Bloomington; Fred, who has been with the Pantagraph



for twenty-five years; and William R., our subject.

During his boyhood and youth William R. Bach attended the public and high schools of Bloomington, graduating from the latter in the class of 1889 with high honors. While in school he supported himself, and it can be truthfully said of him that he is a self-made man. After his graduation he entered the postal service in the Bloomington post-office, where he served for four years.

After giving up that position he entered the Wesleyan Law School, where he was graduated in 1894, with the degree of LL. B. During the two years he spent in that institution he was examined six times, and in all but one of these he stood the highest in the class, being beaten at that time by his present partner, Mr. Livingston. This partnership was formed in 1894, and for young men they have been remarkably successful. Besides having a good general practice, they are attorneys for the Third National Bank, and for the county treasurer and county sheriff. They have tried many important cases, in most of which they have been successful. In 1897, and again in 1899, Mr. Bach was elected city attorney by large majorities over his competitors, and his duties in that position have been most arduous on account of the reorganization of the city under general law just before he came into office. He has defended many cases of damages against the city, and has succeeded in defending the corporation from unjust claims and reducing others to small amounts. He is the youngest man ever elected to the office he is now so ably filling.

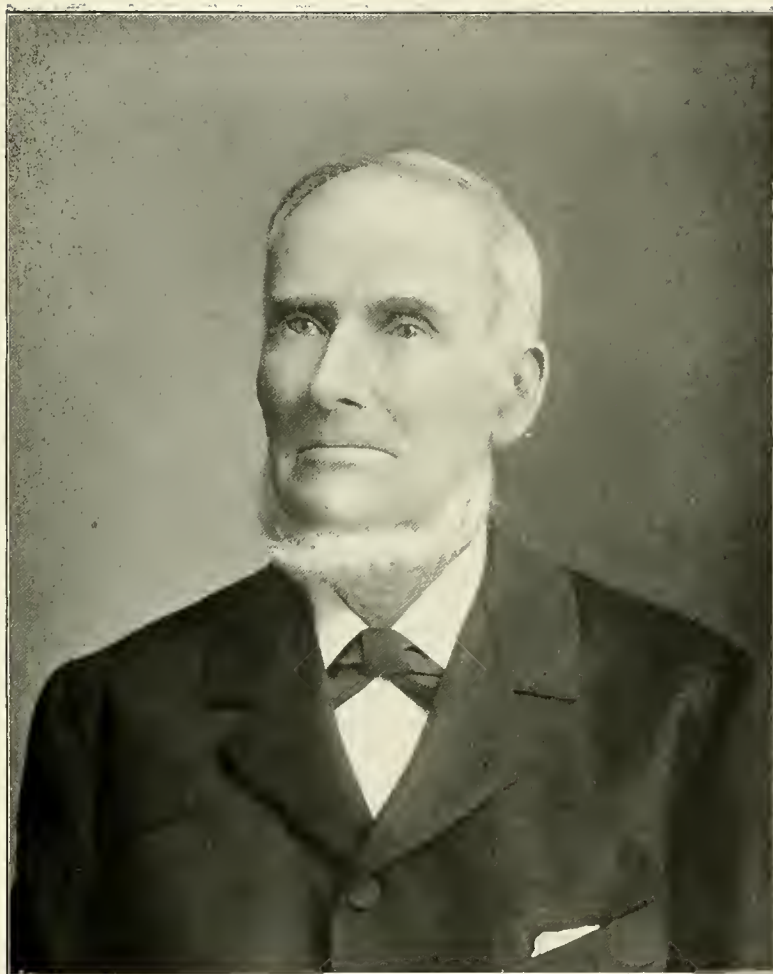
On the 17th of June, 1898, Mr. Bach was united in marriage with Miss Lelia

Frances Means, a daughter of Joseph C. Means, county treasurer of McLean county. On both sides she is descended from honored pioneer families. Among her ancestors were those who fought for the freedom of the colonies, and she is now a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Both Mr. and Mrs. Bach are active members of the First Methodist Episcopal church, Bloomington, and he is a member of the official board and treasurer of the Sunday-school, while she is a teacher in the latter. Politically he is an active worker in the ranks of the Republican party, and socially is a prominent member of the Knights of Pythias, being a district deputy grand chancellor with supervision over a number of lodges, and is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America; Bloomington Lodge 400, I. O. O. F.; Custer Company, U. R. K. of K.; Bloomington Lodge, No. 43, F. & A. M.; Bloomington Chapter, No. 26, R. A. M.; and De Molay Commandery, No. 24, K. T. Mr. Bach has certainly a brilliant future before him.

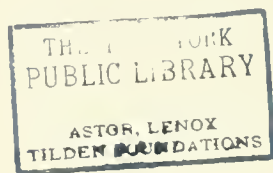
REV. SYLVESTER PEASLEY. We are now permitted to touch briefly upon the life history of one who has retained a personal association with the affairs of McLean county since its early pioneer days, and one whose ancestral line traces back the colonial epoch. His life has been one of honest and earnest endeavor and due success has not been denied him.

This honored pioneer and prominent citizen of Randolph township, whose home is on section 24, was born in Grayson county, Virginia, August 31, 1823, but has made his home in this county since the 3d of November, 1834. His father, Isaac Peasley,





REV. SYLVESTER PEASLEY.



was a native of Wilkes county, North Carolina, and was a son of John Peasley, a Revolutionary hero, who was born in Guilford county, North Carolina, but at an early day removed to Wilkes county. On reaching man's estate, Isaac Peasley left the county of his nativity and went to Virginia, where he wedded Miss Rachel Halsey, who was born on the farm where their marriage was celebrated. Her father, William Halsey, was a native of New Jersey, and was also one of the soldiers who fought so valiantly for American independence in the Revolutionary war.

For several years after his marriage, Isaac Peasley continued to follow farming in Virginia, where three of his children were born, and in 1834, with a four-horse team and wagon started for Illinois, accompanied by his family. Finally after a long and tedious journey they arrived in Randolph township on the 3d of November. For two years Mr. Peasley rented a farm of Jesse Funk, and then purchased sixty acres lying partly within Downs and the remainder in Randolph township. This was composed of forty acres of prairie land and twenty acres of timber. In November, 1836, with the assistance of his neighbors for miles around, he built a log cabin on the prairie, with an open fire place, stick chimney, clay jams and clapboard roof. The family moved in before the chimney was constructed higher than the jams, and the following night there was a snow and sleet storm, after which it turned cold very suddenly and everything froze solid. The next morning the trees, bushes, grasses and everything was loaded down with glistening ice, making a beautiful sight, and Mr. Peasley remarked that it looked like the scenery in polar regions. As time passed he added to his original purchase until he had over four hundred acres of fine farming land which he placed under excellent cultivation, and upon that farm continued to make his home until called from this life in 1851. His worthy wife survived him a number of years.

Sylvester Peasley was a lad of eleven years when he came with his parents to Illinois, and he contributed his share to the work of improving and cultivating the home farm, his educational privileges being necessarily limited, as there were few schools in this region at that time. He remained with his father until the latter's death, though he had previously purchased an improved and adjoining farm. On the 4th of November, 1843, in Randolph township, he was united in marriage with Miss Mary Stillman, who was born and reared in Hunterdon county, New Jersey, and came to this county at an early day with her father, Joseph Stillman. For a year the young couple made their home with Mr. Stillman and then located on our subject's land, to the further improvement and cultivation of which he devoted his energies for many years. He bought more land and still owns two hundred acres there, upon which he set out one of the first orchards in the county; also planted small fruits and ornamental trees and erected commodious and substantial buildings, making it one of the best improved places of Downs township. There he made his home from 1843 until 1895, a period of fifty-two years. He has given considerable attention to the breeding of and dealing in pure-blooded short-horn cattle and Poland China hogs, and is also interested in feeding other cattle and hogs for the market. The trees that he set out upon his first farm are now two feet and a

half in diameter. He is the owner of another valuable and well-improved farm of two hundred and sixty acres, upon which he built a beautiful modern residence in 1895—one of the best in Randolph township—and there he has since made his home, surrounded by all the comforts and many of the luxuries of life, which have been obtained through his own well-directed and energetic efforts. He started out in life for himself a poor boy, and for seven years worked as a farm hand for Jesse Funk, at first only receiving six dollars per month. By strict economy, fair dealing and unremitting labor, however, he has become one of the most substantial and prosperous citizens of his community, and is now the owner of two valuable farms.

Mr. Peasley lost his first wife in 1863. To them were born five children, namely: Granville, who is now engaged in farming upon the old place in Downs township; Susan, deceased wife of Eli Barton; Isaac, who assists in the operation of the home farm; John, who follows farming on the old homestead in Downs township; and Mrs. Hester C. Johnson, deceased. In Downs township Mr. Peasley was again married, in April, 1865, his second wife being Mrs. Susan Crosby, *nee* Barclay. She was born in Mason county, Kentucky, where she first married Andrew Crosby, who died there, leaving four children: William, a farmer of Downs township; Nancy, wife of James Duckett, of Lyon county, Kansas; Harriet, widow of Findley Horner, and a resident of Fonda, Iowa; and James N., who is with his mother. By the second marriage there was one daughter, Ella, who died at the age of three years.

Politically, Mr. Peasley was a Jeffersonian Democrat and cast his first presiden-

tial vote for James K. Polk, in 1844, but in 1856 he supported John C. Fremont and has since been an ardent supporter of the Republican party and its principles, having never missed a presidential election since attaining his majority. He has ever taken quite an active interest in local politics and has served in a number of positions of honor and trust. He was the first postmaster of Downs, which office he filled for some years; was a member of the honorable county board of supervisors fifteen years and president of the same two years, and also served on a great many important committees, being chairman of the one that erected the soldiers' monument. For some years he was township trustee, a member of the school board and president of the district, and has been a delegate to numerous county, state and congressional conventions. His public as well as his private duties have always been most faithfully and conscientiously discharged, winning the commendation of all concerned. He was one of the originators and organizers of the Bloomington Mutual Fire Insurance Company; has held the position of president since the start, and has signed all the important papers and policies of this company for twenty-two years. Under his able management it has become one of the most solid and successful fire insurance companies of the county. Always a consistent Christian gentleman, Mr. Peasley was ordained a minister of the Baptist church when a young man and engaged in preaching a number of years, having pastoral charge of five churches at different times, but was forced to give it up on account of throat trouble, though he still takes an active interest in church work. His contact with his fellow men has broadened his



nature and views, if such were possible; and hale, hearty and vigorous at over three-score years and ten, his faculties undimmed, his physique but little impaired, many years of undiminished usefulness yet seem before him. Such men are rare and the world is not slow to appreciate them. It is safe to say that no man in his community has more or warmer friends than this honored pioneer.

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#### HON. GEORGE W. STUBBLEFIELD.

The history of mankind is replete with illustrations of the fact that it is only under the pressure of adversity and the stimulus of opposition that the best and strongest in men are brought out and developed. Perhaps the history of no people so forcibly impresses one with this truth as the annals of our own Republic; and certainly Illinois has many representatives of this class—men who have started out in life with little or, at best, limited capital and have worked their way upward until they control extensive business interests and thereby not only advance individual prosperity, but also promote the general welfare. This Mr. Stubblefield has done, and his determined purpose, laudable ambition, honorable methods and unflagging enterprise have brought to him brilliant success, which is well merited. One of McLean county's native sons, he is now a leading and influential citizen of Bloomington and has gained distinction not only in commercial life, but also as a representative of the political interests of his community.

Mr. Stubblefield traces his ancestry back to New England, where the family was founded at an early day in the history of America. His great-grandfather commanded a Vermont regiment in the Revolu-

tionary war, and with his brave "Green Mountain Boys" did effective service for the cause of liberty. The grandfather, Robert Stubblefield, was born in Halifax county, Virginia, and loyally served his country in the war of 1812. He afterward located in Fayette county, Ohio, where he wedded Miss Mary Funk, and after the birth of their four children she died. He then married her sister, Sarah Funk, and they emigrated to McLean county, Illinois, in 1824. They became the parents of eight children. Numbered among the pioneers of this region they were forced to endure all the trials and hardships which go to make up life in a frontier region. The grandfather, however, became one of the extensive land-owners of the county, his realty possessions aggregating two thousand acres. He held membership in the First Methodist Episcopal church, at Funk's Grove, and previous to his arrival in this state was connected with that denomination.

John Stubblefield, father of our subject, was born in Fayette county, Ohio, in 1820, and was only four years old when brought by his parents to this county. The Stubblefields were the second family to locate at Funks Grave, where amid the wild scenes of pioneer life John Stubblefield was reared. He aided in the arduous task of developing new land, and after attaining to man's estate began farming on his own account, which occupation he successfully followed for many years. He married Ellisannah Howser and remained upon the farm until the death of his wife, which occurred in 1896. Since that time he has lived a retired life, having acquired a competence that supplies all his wants. He has been recognized as one of the leading and influential citizens of the community for more

than half a century, has held many township offices, including those of supervisor and treasurer, and filled the latter position for thirty years. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, has served as class leader for many years and has been very active in the church work and a liberal contributor to its support. In his family were eight children.

George W. Stubblefield, whose name introduces this review, was born at Funks Grove, January 2, 1849, and there acquired his preliminary education, which was supplemented by a course in the Illinois Wesleyan University, of Bloomington. Thus fitted to meet the duties of life, he entered upon his business career as an importer of horses. In this business he was associated with his father. He was the second man to bring imported horses into McLean county, and he made eighteen trips to France to make purchases. Thus in connection with his father, he engaged extensively in the breeding and sale of fine Percheron and coach horses, and developed an extensive stock farm, which they conducted until 1894. They became known to stock dealers throughout this section of the country, and the high grade of their horses was shown by the many premiums which they won on them at the county and state fairs.

Our subject, however, is a man of resourceful business ability, and his energies have been devoted to many enterprises which have been crowned with a high degree of success. While conducting his stock farm he maintained his residence in the city and conducted a jewelry store from 1880 until 1892, enjoying a large trade. He also established a livery stable, and erected a large brick building to serve as a feed and sale barn. This has also been a profitable

investment, and he now has a very large patronage. In 1886 he purchased the Waite House and has since engaged in the hotel business. This house has been one of the leading features of the city for forty years, and is most popular not only with the traveling public, but is also headquarters for farming and stockmen. It is conducted after the most approved manner of modern hostelries, every modern convenience may there be found, and the business enjoyed by the hotel is very large.

Mr. Stubblefield has also been connected with many interests of a public character, which have proven of benefit to the city. He was one of the first trustees of the Deaconess Hospital, and has since served in that capacity. He was chairman of the building committee when the structure was erected in 1896, at a cost of eight thousand dollars, and has ever labored for the promotion of the noble and humane work carried on by the institution. He was also a member of the building committee and is one of the directors of the Colesium,—a large armory drill hall, also used for public meetings and having a seating capacity of four thousand. It was erected at a cost of twenty-five thousand dollars by a private corporation, and largely resulted from the enterprising and public-spirited efforts of Mr. Stubblefield, who recognizing Bloomington's need of a large assembly hall, set to work to secure it.

In his political affiliations he has always been a stanch Republican, active in support of the party, and has been chairman of the party organization in his ward. He keeps well informed on the issues of the day, and is therefore able to meet in argument those politically opposed to him. In 1896 he was elected to represent McLean

county in the state senate, and has been a very prominent member of the assembly. He served as chairman of the committee on penal institutions, in connection with which he did much work for the state prisons and reform school. He was a member of the railroad committee, and introduced the two-cent-fare bill with the result that the railroads compromised by placing the rebate at two cents a mile on the market. He was also actively interested in other bills, and ably represented his constituents and the interests of the commonwealth.

On the 6th of June, 1888, Mr. Stubblefield was united in marriage to Mrs. Bettie M. Stewart, daughter of John S. Savery, of Bloomington. She is a most estimable lady and holds membership in the Christian church. Mr. Stubblefield belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church and is an exemplary member of Remembrance Lodge, No. 77, I. O. O. F. He has filled all the chairs in that order; has been a representative to the grand lodge; deputy in the McLean Encampment, and has held all the offices in that organization. He is one of the trustees of the Odd Fellows' building, which was erected by the lodge, which is one of the wealthiest in the state. He is a charter member of the Modern Woodmen Camp, of Bloomington, was one of its first officers and has at different times filled all of its official positions. He is also a charter member of Towanda Tribe of Red Men, and belongs to George Rogers Clark Chapter, No. 2, Sons of the American Revolution, of which he was the first treasurer. In all the relations of life he has been true and faithful to the trust reposed in him, having a broad public spirit and deep interest in humanity that prompts his active

service in behalf of the general welfare and of his fellow men. His life has been one of honest effort and earnest endeavor and due success has not been denied him. A man of unswerving integrity and honor, one who has a perfect appreciation of the higher ethics of life, he has gained and retained the confidence and respect of his fellow men; and is distinctively one of the leading citizens of Bloomington, with whose interests he has been so long identified.

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MILTON HARNESS, who is now living a retired life in the beautiful city of Lexington, is a native of McLean county, and was born, June 17, 1844, on the old family homestead, just south of Lexington. His father, Isaac Harness, who was the son of Jacob and Christiana (Smith) Harness, was born in Bourbon county, Kentucky, near Cane Ridge, March 17, 1811. Jacob Harness was born near the Potomac river, Virginia, and was a son of Peter Harness, who, with his family, removed from Virginia to Kentucky. During the second war with Great Britain, in 1812, he served his country as a soldier faithfully and well. He remained in Kentucky until his son Isaac was seventeen years old, and then with his family removed to Fayette county, Ohio, locating near Washington Court House. His father, Peter Harness, had preceded him, and had purchased twelve hundred acres of land, which he proceeded to divide among his children, giving each of his sons one hundred acres of timber land. Jacob at once commenced to clear his tract, and in due time had established a comfortable home, and where his children were reared. Later he removed to Indiana, and located on the Wolcott prairie, where



he resided some years, subsequently coming to McLean county, and he and his wife died near Lexington.

Isaac Harness came to McLean county in 1832, and was joined four years later by his parents, who located, however, in Livingston county, on the Vermillion river, near Pontiac. After remaining there a few years they came to McLean county and settled on a farm one mile south of Lexington. Isaac Harness was very successful in all his business undertakings, and before his death was the owner of three thousand acres of land in McLean county, in addition to which he had some eleven or twelve hundred acres of land in Missouri and Kansas. At one time he was extensively engaged in the mercantile business with Joseph Greenbaum, a Jew, having stores in Lexington and Pontiac. In 1867 he organized the Lexington Bank and became its president.

Isaac Harness was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Wiley, and twelve children were born unto them, of whom seven grew to maturity, six yet surviving: William, a farmer and capitalist of Lexington; Sarah, wife of George Vandolah, of Lexington; Adaline, wife of B. J. Claggett, of Lexington; Caroline, widow of W. H. Kennedy, formerly cashier of the Bank of Lexington; Milton, the subject of this sketch; Emma, wife of Merritt Dawson, of Lexington, and Arabella, who died at the age of twenty-three years. The remainder died in childhood.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood on his father's farm near Lexington, and in the public schools of the township received his primary education, finishing his education in Lombard University, Galesburg, Illinois. On attaining his majority he

commenced farming on his own account on land deeded him by his father, who divided a large tract of land among his children. On the 24th of November, 1865, he was united in marriage with Miss Melissa P. Kemp, a native of Harrison county, Ohio, born September 24, 1845, and daughter of John G. and Margaret (Bricker) Kemp, who were the parents of eleven children, ten of whom lived to maturity, five yet surviving: Julia, wife of Isaac Young, of Gridley; John J., of Lexington; Enoch, of El Paso, Illinois; Martha, wife of W. C. Mack, of Lexington; and Melissa, wife of our subject. The parents never came to this county, but both died in Ohio. Three of their sons, Shadrach, George and John J., came to McLean county in 1852, the remainder of the family coming a little later, Mrs. Harness coming when she was but eleven years old. She made her home with her brothers and sisters until her marriage.

Mr. and Mrs. Harness began their domestic life on a part of his father's estate, in a little log house on the Bloomington road, and there remained one year and then moved to another place. They continued to reside on various parts of the home farm until taking up their abode in their present home. In his farming operations, Mr. Harness has met with good success, giving his attention principally to stock raising, feeding and shipping about ten car-loads of cattle, and several hundred head of hogs per year.

Two daughters came to bless the union of Mr. and Mrs. Harness. The eldest, Lola May, is now the wife of Fremont Hanson, and they have two children, Pansy May and Cleon. Mr. Hanson is superintendent of Swift's Packing Company, of St. Louis, where he resides with his family. The



youngest daughter, Georgia D., yet makes her home with her parents in Lexington.

In politics, Mr. Harness is a Democrat, and has given earnest support to the men and measures of that party since attaining his majority. He has never been an office seeker, however, preferring to give his attention to his business interests. He has lately erected an elegant home in the south part of the city, one of the finest in Lexington, heated by a furnace and lighted by electricity, and withal handsomely furnished, showing the taste of its cultured occupants. Into that home they moved on the 28th of March, 1898, and they are pleased to entertain their many friends and bestow that genuine hospitality which is inherent in those coming from the south, or who are descendants of southern people. Their friends are many in both McLean and Livingston counties, and wherever known they held in the highest esteem.

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**JOHN ROBERT GRAY.**—It is an important duty to honor and perpetuate as far as is possible the memory of an eminent citizen — one who, by his blameless and honorable life and distinguished career, reflected credit upon his city and state. His example, in whatever field his work may have been done, thus stands an object lesson to those who come after him, and though dead he still speaks. Long after all recollection of his personality shall have faded from the minds of men, the less perishable record may tell the story of his life and commend his example for imitation.

Mr. Gray, now deceased, who was for some years one of the ablest instructors in music in Illinois and one of the founders of the Wesleyan College of Music, Bloom-

ington, was born in Belleplain, Marshall county, Illinois, February 13, 1860, and died March 19, 1893. His wonderful ability and remarkable qualities were just beginning to be widely known and respected when his career was terminated by death. His early youth was passed upon a farm eight miles southeast of Lacon, and at an early age he manifested a taste for music, although he did not begin the serious study of the art until he came to Bloomington and attended the Wesleyan University, where he was a faithful and thorough student during the college years of 1876 and 1877. Here he took lessons on the piano of Mrs. Flora Hunter.

On the 26th of March, 1879, Mr. Gray was united in marriage with Miss Mary Emeline Iliff, who was his constant companion in his studies and was associated with him in his success as a musical instructor. In 1881 they went to Germany to complete their musical education, and entered the Leipzig Conservatory, one of the finest conservatories in the world. They remained abroad five years and studied under the best instructors. In piano they were under the instruction of Eibenschuetz, the finest pianist the conservatory ever secured as a member of its faculty, and also studied with Weidenbeach, whose ability to impart to pupils the true musical spirit of a composition has never been surpassed. Richter and Jadassohn, teachers too well known to need comment, were their instructors in harmony, counterpoint, composition, canon and fugue. They were graduated in the spring of 1886, and upon their return to America spent some time in concert work, meeting with marked appreciation and success. They had charge of the musical department of Eureka College

for a year, and then came to Bloomington to direct the work of the Illinois College of Music, of the Wesleyan University, of which Mr. Gray was dean for two years. It was then consolidated with the Bloomington Conservatory, in 1889, under the name of the Wesleyan College of Music, and he was a joint director with Oliver R. Skinner until his death. Through their combined efforts the school gained recognition and prestige as one of the best and most thorough institutions of the kind in the state. By unanimous action of the college board Mrs. Gray was appointed to fill the place of her deceased husband.

As a musician Mr. Gray was enthusiastic and devoted his life and energies to his profession, being a most thorough and conscientious instructor. A work on harmony, published just before his death, is an exhaustive treatise, presenting the matter in a condensed and concise manner, and may be considered one of the best text books on the subject ever written by an American musician. He was one of nature's noblemen, respected and loved by all who became intimately acquainted with him. His character was above reproach, his ideals were high and noble, and the world is certainly better for his having lived.

Mrs. Gray has shown herself possessed in a high degree of good executive ability, thorough musical knowledge, true teacher's instinct, and the power to interest and hold her pupils, all absolutely essential qualifications for so responsible a position as she now holds. As a pianist she unites a brilliant technique with a sympathetic interpretation. Her pupils become thoroughly imbued with her love of music, and are fired with ambition and courage to press on to higher attainments. Many of her graduates

occupy prominent musical positions and are known as thorough musicians and teachers. She does not rest on past laurels wherever a fresh idea can be found, a new impetus gained, a new help obtained that will benefit her students; she spares neither time nor money. "Growth" is her watchword, and established communication with the leading musicians and critics of the country makes this possible. She possesses an enviable reputation and holds many strong testimonials of her work from leading musicians. In addition to her marked ability as a musician and teacher, her beautiful Christian womanhood has a lasting influence on the lives of the students fortunate to come within her sphere and find in her a friend.

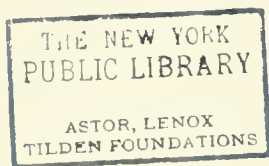
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ROBERT LOUDON, proprietor of the Eagle Machine Works on North Main street, Bloomington, is one of the prominent and successful business men of the city. Although he has not accumulated a great fortune, but few lives furnish so striking an example of the wise application of sound principles and safe conservatism as does his. The story of his success is short and simple, containing no exciting chapters, but in it lies one of the most valuable secrets of the prosperity which it records, and his business and private life are pregnant with interest and incentive, no matter how lacking in dramatic action,—the record of a noble life, consistent with itself and its possibilities in every particular.

Mr. Loudon was born in Kilmarnock, Scotland, March 18, 1833, a son of Allan and Jeanette (Kennedy) Loudon, and is a representative of an old and highly respected family, who were possessed of all the admirable traits of that nationality. His



ROBERT LOUDON.





paternal grandparents were Hugh and Margaret (Houston) Loudon, in whose family were nine children, five sons and four daughters. The grandfather lived in Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, where he engaged in business as a shoemaker, and all his sons learned that trade with the exception of the father of our subject, who was apprenticed to learn the machinist's trade with Bailey Morton, of Kilmarnock, a noted telescope manufacturer, who had an observatory of his own mounted with a fine telescope which drew people from all parts of Scotland. While working there Allan Loudon became very proficient in the manufacture of telescopes, one of which was made for Sir John Ross and formed part of his outfit when he went in search of the north pole. Another is still in use in the observatory at Dumfries, and stands beside the monument erected to the memory of the poet Burns. In 1834 he made a small locomotive, less than six inches each way, which was a great curiosity. He would often amuse his visitors by getting up steam and letting it run about on the floor. Although this was before the days of railroads the little engine is still in good running order. Later Mr. Loudon became master machinist in the celebrated woolen mills of Blackwood Brothers at Kilmarnock, but in 1839 he moved to Dalry, Ayrshire, where he took charge of the Bridge End Mills. He held that position for forty years and was noted for his reliability and fidelity to duty. He invented an engine governor which was a great improvement over the old ball governor and also a lap machine for wool carding, the first which ever worked successfully and is still used. The doubling and twisting machine for giving a definite number of twists to each foot of yarn was perfected by him and our subject together, and also an improved carding machine which effected a saving of twenty per cent in the cost of carding.

He married Jeanette Kennedy, a native of Old Cumnock, where her ancestors had lived for many generations. Her parents were Robert and Margaret (French) Kennedy. Her grandfather French was a fine violinist and musical composer, who was known all over the western part of Scotland. He and Neal Dow (not of Portland, Maine) often played together at factory balls given by lords and dukes in that region, and one of his pieces of sacred music, which bears the name of French, is still sung by congregations in Scotland and is mentioned by Robbie Burns in his poems. Our subject remembers hearing his grandmother relate that when Mr. French died Neal Dow appropriated all the music and published it as his own production, reaping all the honor and profit that should have been her father's. Allan Loudon died in Dalry, in 1888, and his wife shortly afterward, in 1890. They were prominent and active members of the Presbyterian church and highly respected by all who knew them. In the family of this worthy couple were three sons and five daughters, of whom our subject is the first in order of birth. Hugh also learned the machinist's trade at home, and later joined the English navy as engineer. He became chief engineer and was in the service fourteen years, lacking but one year of being placed on the retired list, when he was suddenly taken ill and died in the service. Allan, after serving an apprenticeship to the machinist's trade, entered the passenger steamship service between Liverpool and New York as engineer, but later engaged in the hardware business in Dalry, Scotland.

He once visited our subject in Bloomington, but is now deceased. Jean is now the wife of George McFee, a prominent business man of London, England. Agnes is the wife of George Cluckey, of Paisley, Scotland. Mary, who is not married, lives at the old home in Dalry. Margaret married George Craig, of Paisley, and died leaving two sons. Jeanette died at the old home-  
stead in 1897.

Robert Loudon, of this review, attended school between the ages of four and twelve years. Being then considered old enough to do something for himself, he was apprenticed to learn silk weaving by a hand loom, and served three years. As this business did not suit him, having inherited a love for machinery, he was apprenticed at the Bridge End Mills, Dalry, of which his father had charge, and to a day served his five years, receiving three shillings six pence a week the first year; four shillings the second; five shillings three pence the third; eight shillings, or two dollars, the fourth; and two dollars and a half the fifth. Out of this he paid his board and bought his clothes. As soon as free he made a contract to work for twenty-three shillings a week, the highest wages then paid, and during the ten years he was thus employed he saved some money.

On the 8th of April, 1857, Mr. Loudon was united in marriage with Miss Jennette Johnston, a daughter of David Johnston, a representative of an old Sterlingshire family. They remained in their native land until after the birth of their oldest son, Allan Kennedy. The family now numbers six children, namely: Allan Kennedy married Carrie Gillespie, daughter of William Gillespie and lives in Bloomington. David J., a resident of Bloomington, married May,

daughter of the late Joseph M. Parke, of Vera, Illinois, and they have two children, Grace and Jennette. Robert William, of Chicago, married Minnie Hodge and has one son, Hodge. Emma J. and Jennette are both graduates of the Normal School, of Normal and spent some time in Germany, where the former studied German and French, and the latter music. After stopping for some time in Paris, they returned to their home in Bloomington, and Emma is now teaching French and German in the high school of Beaver Dam, Wisconsin. Jennette, who is considered the best musician in this part of the country, always commands a prominent position. She studied with the best masters and was for three years a pupil of Scharwenka. She has been connected as a musical instructor, with the Universities of Michigan, Iowa, Missouri and Alabama, and is now with the Wesleyan Female College of Macon, Georgia. Agnes Grace is a graduate of the Wesleyan University of Bloomington, and is at home with her parents.

Mr. Loudon and his little family crossed the Atlantic on the steamer Edinburg from Glasgow to New York, and proceeded at once to Alton, Illinois, where his brother-in-law, James Johnston, had previously located, finding employment in the shops of the Terre Haute & Alton Railroad, now the Big Four, where he worked as a machinist until the shops were moved to Litchfield. In the fall of 1859, in company with two other gentlemen, he started a machine shop at Jacksonville, Illinois, but as times were hard he sold out his interest two years later, and again entered the railroad shops at Litchfield, where he worked until 1863. He then went to Cairo, where in the employ of the government he had charge of men re-

pairing the dispatch boats running between Cairo and Vicksburg and up the Yazoo river.

In December, 1863, Mr. Loudon was solicited to come to Bloomington and take charge of the Chicago & Alton machine shops, where he remained until a new superintendent was elected and then resigned. In 1865 he took charge of the shops of J. M. Ollis and did a large and successful business in manufacturing heavy machinery, especially coal-shaft machinery. He also had charge of putting in the machinery in the first shaft sunk in Bloomington. In 1876 he became a member of the firm of Deidrich & Loudon, and embarked in business for himself at the Big Four depot; but a year later the partnership was dissolved and Mr. Loudon began business alone at No. 620 North Main street, in a frame shop, which he erected at that place. The old creek flowed by his place of business and the street was still lined with gardens on both sides. Here he engaged in engine building and a general machine work. His trade gradually increasing and his financial resources, also, he at length erected his present building—a large brick structure, forty-four by ninety-four feet, three stories in height with a basement, all devoted to his business. Here he conducts a general machine shop, and when the water works was established he was among the first to start in the plumbing business and has since added steam-heating and gas-fitting. In these lines he carries the finest as well as by far the largest stock in the city. Purchasing property on Center street, he there erected, in 1897, eight flats, the most modern and up-to-date flats in the city. His own home is an elegant residence at the corner of Franklin Square, now the best neighbor-

hood in the city, but when he built there thirty-three years ago there was but one house beyond his place. He was one of the original stockholders of the Corn Belt Bank, and has encouraged many of the new and important industries of the city, such as the Walton Plow factory, the chair factory and the radiator factory, all of which failed through bad management. When the Illinois Master Plumbers' Association was formed, in 1893, Mr. Loudon was elected its first president, serving during 1893-4, and in 1895 he served as state vice-president of the National Plumbers' Association. Although Mr. Loudon is to-day one of the most prominent and successful business men of Bloomington, his career has not been helped by accident or luck, or wealth or powerful friends. He is, in the broadest sense, a self-made man, being both the architect and builder of his own fortune. He and his family are members of the Baptist church, and he also belongs to Bloomington Lodge, No. 43, A. F. & A. M. In 1886, he returned to his old home in Scotland, his visit being a joyful surprise to his aged parents. Besides going over the scenes of his boyhood, he visited the region where most of Burns' poems were laid, it being only fourteen miles from his old home. He also spent some time in London and traveled quite extensively through Scotland.

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CHARLES E. BISHOP, a veteran of the war for the union, and one of the enterprising farmers and stock raisers of McLean county, resides upon his farm of one hundred and twenty acres on section 29, Randolph township. He is a native of the township, and was born January 23, 1841. His father, Martin L. Bishop, was



a native of Ohio, born in 1818, and was the son of James Bishop. In his native state Martin L. Bishop married Miss Matilda McRoberts, also a native of Ohio, and they moved to McLean county, Illinois, in the fall of 1840. Locating in Randolph township, near the present village of Heyworth, he purchased a farm and as his means increased added to its area until he was the owner of over twelve hundred acres. He was very successful in his business ventures and was a man of more than ordinary ability. Abraham Lincoln was his personal friend and was his attorney in a case against the Illinois Central Railroad which he won in the courts at Bloomington. Mr. Lincoln on more than one occasion visited him at his home. He died in Bloomington, April 17, 1897. He was twice married, his first wife dying in 1848. He later married Margaret E. Glasscock.

Charles E. Bishop is one of four children by the first union who grew to mature years. Emeline married, but is now deceased. Charles E. was next in order of birth. William, an ex-sheriff of McLean county, is now living in Bloomington. Mary was married, but is now deceased. On the old home place our subject grew to manhood, and in the common schools, which he usually attended in the winter months, he obtained his education. He remained with his father on the farm until in August, 1862, when he enlisted in Company B, Ninety-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and with his regiment went to the front. The first engagement in which he participated was at Prairie Grove, Arkansas. He was in the siege of Vicksburg, from which place the regiment was sent down the river, and later to Brownsville, Texas. During the time he was in the service he was on detached duty,

acting as orderly for General Orme and others. In August, 1865, he was honorably discharged, after serving his full three years. The regiment was discharged and mustered out at Springfield, Illinois.

After receiving his discharge, Mr. Bishop returned to his home in Randolph township, and resumed his place on the farm. On the 11th of January, 1866, he married Miss Frances M. Lake, a native of Sangamon county, born and reared near Springfield. In April following they located on the place where they now reside, renting the place for the first three or four years and then purchasing it. In the years that have passed he has made many improvements on it, in the building of a neat and substantial residence, the erection of out-buildings, the planting of fruit and ornamental trees, together with such other improvements that go to make a model farm of the nineteenth century. It is certainly one of the best improved farms in the township.

Mr. and Mrs. Bishop are the parents of eight children. Nettie is now the wife of C. C. Bell, and they reside in Marshall county, Illinois. Edward is married and is residing in Marshall county, Illinois. Albert is married and is a farmer of Randolph township. Frank is assisting in carrying on the home farm. Ella is the wife of John R. Ryburn, of Randolph township. Jessie is the wife of Frank Munson, of Randolph township. Ora and Ethel are yet at home.

Politically Mr. Bishop is a staunch and life-long Republican. He was in the army during the presidential election of 1864, and therefore lost his opportunity to vote for the re-election of "Honest Old Abe," but in 1868 he had the pleasure of voting fo



General Grant. His last presidential vote was for William McKinley. His business interests have always commanded his attention, and he has therefore neither sought nor accepted office, with the exception of that of school trustee, an office which he has held for twenty years. He is a member of the Presbyterian church at Heyworth, and Mrs. Bishop is also a member of the same church. Fraternally he is a Master Mason, and he is also a member of the post of the Grand Army of the Republic at Heyworth. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. Socially he and his family are held in high esteem, and as a life long resident of the county he is well acquainted and has many friends, who admire him for his personal worth as a man and citizen.

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LUMAN E. BAKER, an enterprising farmer and stock raiser, residing on section 21, Downs township, owns and operates a farm of two hundred acres of well improved land. He was born in Green county, New York, under the shadow of the Catskill mountains, July 7, 1848. His father, Luman Baker, and his grandfather, David Baker, were also natives of the same county and state. The family are of Holland ancestry, but very early settlers in this country, as the great grandfather of our subject was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. Luman Baker was a farmer in Green county, New York, and there married Miss Hannah Palmer, a native of Albany county, New York, and daughter of Gideon Palmer. They never came west, but lived and died in Green county.

Luman E. Baker was reared in his native state, where he received fair educational

advantages, but his general knowledge has been acquired since arriving at maturity. He remained at home until twenty years of age, when he came to McLean county, Illinois, and for two years worked on various farms by the month. He then rented a farm in Old Town township, where he remained six years, after which he moved into Downs township, where he continued to rent and engage in farming for a number of years. He then purchased the place where he now resides, consisting of two hundred acres, and has here since continued to reside, engaged in general farming and stock raising. Since moving to the farm he has put down about fifteen hundred rods of tiling, and has made other improvements of a substantial character. He makes a specialty of feeding and preparing for the market both cattle and hogs, and annually ships from three to five car loads of cattle and two car loads of hogs.

Mr. Baker was married in the city of Bloomington, August 25, 1869, to Miss Margaret M. Price, a native of McLean county, and daughter of Burl R. Price, who came to this county with his father, James Price, who was a native of Virginia, from which state he removed to Kentucky and later to Illinois, locating in Bloomington, where he engaged in the mercantile business, having for a time two stores. Burl R. Price here grew to manhood and married Miss Elizabeth Bishop, a native of Ohio, but who was reared in this county, having come here with her parents when but three years of age. Mr. Price was by occupation a farmer, and continued to engage in farming until his death in 1878. His wife yet survives him and makes her home in Bloomington.

To Mr. and Mrs. Baker five children

have been born. Burl P. married and has one child. He is well educated, and was formerly a teacher in the county, but is now engaged as a commercial traveler from Chicago. Carrie is the wife of W. W. Reser, of Downstownship. Lou is a well-educated young lady, and for two years taught in the Bloomington city schools. Walter is married, and is now engaged in the railroad service in the employ of the Illinois Central Railroad. Henry C. is a graduate of the Leroy high school of the class of 1899. He yet remains under the parental roof.

Politically, Mr. Baker is a Republican, and cast his first presidential vote for U. S. Grant in 1872. For every presidential nominee of the party from that time to the present he has cast his vote. He has never sought or cared for office. Mrs. Baker is a member of the Baptist church in Bloomington. For thirty-one years Mr. Baker has been a resident of McLean county and identified with its interests. He has never regretted making this county his home, and here he has made many friends, and is well known in Bloomington and the south part of the county.

**T**HOMAS F. HARWOOD, deceased, was one of the honored and highly-respected citizens of Bloomington, and for many years was prominently identified with the business interests of the place. His devotion to the public welfare made him a valued factor in public life, and by his death Bloomington was deprived of one of its best citizens.

Mr. Harwood was born in Orleans county, New York, in 1838, a son of Chauncey and Lovisa (Bogue) Harwood, natives of Vermont. In early manhood the father

went to New York and located at the present site of the city of Rochester, traveling the entire distance on foot from Chittenden, Vermont, through the dense forests. He bought a tract of one hundred acres of land and built thereon a woolen mill just below the falls of the Genesee river. While operating that mill, his health failed and he removed to Orleans county, the same state, where he purchased property and erected another woolen factory, which was liberally patronized by the early settlers for miles around in all directions. He was one of the prominent and influential men of his community, was a staunch supporter of the Whig party, and a deacon in the Presbyterian church.

During his boyhood and youth, Thomas F. Harwood received a good practical education and a thorough business training under the able guidance of his father. In 1858, on leaving home at the age of twenty years, he came to Bloomington, Illinois, and established himself in the hardware business on Centre street, carrying on operations along that line until 1870, when he sold out to his brothers and embarked in the lumber trade under the firm style of T. F. Harwood & Co., afterward changed to T. F. Harwood & Sons. Being a man of keen foresight, sound judgment and good business ability, he prospered in his undertakings and succeeded in establishing the largest lumber business in McLean county. He was connected with the same until his death, which occurred in December, 1891. He was also a stockholder and vice-president of the Citizens' Gas Light Company, and was interested in the Third National Bank, of Bloomington.

In 1862, Mr. Harwood was united in marriage with Miss Marietta Keys, of Bloom-

ington, who is also a native of Orleans county, New York, and a daughter of H. N. Keys, formerly of Connecticut. Three children were born of this union: Willis S., Clara and Henry B. The family is one of prominence socially, and they have a pleasant home at No. 410 East Douglas street.

In his political affiliations, Mr. Harwood was a Republican, and for one term he served as alderman of the third ward. As a public-spirited and enterprising citizen, he championed every movement designed to promote the general welfare, supported every enterprise for the public good, and materially aided in the advancement of all social, educational and moral interests.

**B**ENJAMIN F. HARBER, treasurer of the well-known corporation of Harber Brothers' Company, Bloomington, is a leading representative of the business interests of the city. Tireless energy, keen perception, honesty of purpose, genius for devising and executing the right thing at the right time, joined to every-day common sense, guided by resistless will power, are the chief characteristics of the man. Connected with one of the leading wholesale houses in Bloomington, the place that he occupies in business circles is in the front rank.

Mr. Harber was born in Waldo township, Livingston county, Illinois, June 4, 1858, and is a son of David P. and Martha A. (Nance) Harber. The father was born in Indiana, November 20, 1821. Early in the '50s he came to Illinois and first located in Woodford county, where he engaged in farming. Later he followed the same occupation in Livingston county until 1862, becoming an extensive farmer, and taking

quite a prominent part in township affairs as an office holder. In 1862 he removed to El Paso, where he engaged in mercantile business until 1872, and then embarked in the agricultural implement business at Eureka, Woodford county, continuing to carry on the same until a few years prior to his death. He was one of the first to engage exclusively in that trade in his section of the state, and as a retail dealer met with most excellent success. In 1853 he married Miss Martha A. Nance, who was born in Floyd county, Indiana, September 22, 1829, and is a daughter of Clement Nance, a representative of one of the old families living near New Albany, Indiana. She is still living, but Mr. Harber died in Eureka January 29, 1897, honored and esteemed by all who knew him. He was an active and influential member of the Christian church, with which he was officially connected, and to which his widow also belongs. To them were born five children, namely: Hattie, now Mrs. Van Ness, of New Jersey; Edgar D., president of the Harber Brothers' Company, who is represented elsewhere in this work; Benjamin F., our subject; John W., vice-president of the company; and Mina, at home with her mother.

For his literary education, Benjamin F. Harber is indebted to the public schools near his boyhood home, and his first idea of business and business methods were obtained in his father's implement store at Eureka, and with which he was connected as an employe for two years. At the age of seventeen he was admitted to partnership, the firm name being changed to D. P. Harber & Sons. They did a successful retail business in Eureka until 1886, when the brothers came to Bloomington and established business under the style of Har-



ber, Ewins & Company, but two years later the firm was changed to Harber Brothers. In 1891 the business was incorporated under the name of the Harber Brothers' Company, and the same year they erected the building which they now occupy on South Main street and the Lake Erie & Western Railroad, having a switch track of their own. Their trade covers Illinois, Iowa and Indiana, and employment is furnished to a large corps of traveling salemen, as well as a good office force. The company are stockholders in several manufactories from which they buy goods, and besides this our subject is a director in the Third National Bank of Bloomington.

On the 8th of December, 1881, Mr. Harber was united in marriage with Miss Jennie Ewins, a daughter of John A. Ewins, (of whom see sketch elsewhere in this work), of Danvers, and two children have been born of this union: Blanche and Louise. Mr. and Mrs. Harber both hold membership in the Christian church, and he also belongs to the Bloomington Club. By strict attention to business, and by the conscientious discharge of all duties imposed upon him, he has been successful in life, and has won the respect and esteem of all.

**J**OHAN G. GEIGER was for many years actively identified with the agricultural interests of McLean county and is still one of the largest land owners in the county, but for the past six years he has lived retired from active labor. As a young man of nineteen years he came to America, and with no capital, started out in a strange land to overcome the difficulties and obstacles in the path to prosperity. His

youthful dreams have been realized, and in their happy fulfillment he sees the fitting reward of his earnest toil.

Mr. Geiger was born in the county of Germershaem, Bavaria, Germany, April 9, 1833, a son of Frank Peter and Eva Barbara (Wolfe) Geiger, who spent their entire lives in that country, where the father followed the trade of a brick-molder. Our subject is the only one of their three children now living. He was educated in the public schools of his native land, and later engaged in farming and lumbering in that country until 1852, when he crossed the broad Atlantic, landing in New York. He proceeded at once to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he arrived without a penny. He was not only a stranger in a strange land, without capital, but he knew nothing of the English language. He soon found employment as a gardener and during the year and a half he worked at that occupation he managed to save some money. Going to Butler county, Ohio, he worked there for two years and a half, and then came to McLean county, Illinois, in 1856. Here he was employed by others for three years.

During all this time, Mr. Geiger saved some of his wages, and in September, 1859, made his first purchase of land, consisting of eighty-five acres on section 4, Towanda township, for which he paid sixteen hundred dollars. It was then mostly wild prairie land, which he broke and improved, and later successfully operated. On the 14th of September, 1859, he was united in marriage with Miss Anna Neise, who was born in the northern part of Bavaria and came to this country in 1858. They began their domestic life upon his farm, to which he added a tract of one hundred and twenty-five acres adjoining it on the north, six years later.



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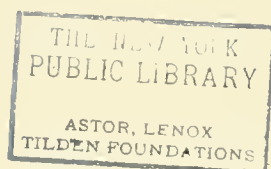
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JOHN G. GEIGER.



MRS. JOHN G. GEIGER.





A few years afterward he bought one hundred and sixty acres more, and successfully operated both farms, being engaged in general farming and stock-raising. Success attended his efforts and he later bought another tract of one hundred and sixty acres on section 24, Towanda township, and also added eighty-six acres to the old homestead in the same township. In 1893 he purchased three hundred and twenty acres in Money Creek township for which he paid twenty-seven thousand dollars. He has other land equally good and now owns nine hundred and forty acres, which is worth more than one hundred dollars per acre. With the exception of five acres of timber land, this is all under a high state of cultivation and well-improved. This valuable property has all been acquired by hard work, good management and sound judgment on the part of our subject and his estimable wife, who has indeed proved to him a true helpmeet, aiding him in every possible way.

Mr. Geiger bought a pleasant home at No. 804 South Main street on the 1st of March, 1893, and there he and his wife have since lived retired, leaving the operation of his farms to their children, who are as follows: George H. married Carrie Stover, of Towanda, and has four children; Magdalena is the wife of Philip Sutter, who lives on one of our subject's farms, and they have two children; Albert F., who lives on the old homestead, wedded Mary Swartzen, and has two children; John N. is engaged in farming; Minnie is the wife of Joseph Sutter, and has four children; he lives in Towanda township; and Paul H. is now a resident of Oklahoma.

Mr. Geiger has always been a staunch supporter of the Republican party, and

while living in the country he served for six years as highway commissioner of Towanda township. Upright and honorable in all his dealings, the success that has attended his well-directed efforts is certainly justly merited, and he has gained the confidence and respect of all who know him.

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JOSEPH D. KAUFMAN.—Similar to a foundation stone which holds its place under an important superstructure, the subject of this sketch occupies an immovable position among the solid men of Empire township. His occupation at present is that of general farming and stock raising, and he owns and successfully operates a most desirable farm of two hundred and forty acres on section 4, about three miles north of Le Roy.

Mr. Kaufman was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, May 28, 1840, and is a son of Joseph Kaufman, who was born in the same state, in 1810, and died in 1840. The mother of our subject, who bore the maiden name of Mary Ann Berry, was a native of Virginia, but was reared in Ohio, where her marriage was celebrated. After the death of her husband she devoted her entire attention to the rearing of her children, and in 1857 brought her family to Illinois, locating on a farm in Blue Ridge township, Piatt county, where she spent the remainder of her life, dying there in August, 1876.

The subject of this review remained with his mother until his marriage, and by his work upon the home farm gained a good practical knowledge of agriculture. Later he learned the carpenter's and joiner's trade, which he followed for several years. In July, 1862, however, he laid aside all personal interests and enlisted for three months

in Company A, Seventy-first Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which was on duty guarding the Ohio & Mobile Railroad in Kentucky until mustered out at Chicago at the close of their term of enlistment.

After his return from the war Mr. Kaufman located in Tazewell county, where he engaged in farming for twenty-one years. There he was married, January 16, 1868, to Miss Martha Curtis, a native of Indiana, who came to this state when a young lady with her father, Harry Curtis. Three children blessed this union, namely: Henry C., a farmer of Empire township, McLean county, who married Almeda Newman and has had three children, Russell and Joseph D., still living, and Ella, who died at the age of four months; Mary, who is at home with her parents; and William A., who is now attending the high school at Le Roy.

For a time after his marriage Mr. Kaufman worked at the carpenter's and joiner's trades in Le Roy, and then returned to Tazewell county, where he rented a farm for a few years and then purchased a place, making that county his home twenty-one years altogether. Selling his place there in the spring of 1890, he bought his present farm in Empire township, upon which he has since made many valuable improvements, including the planting of fruit and ornamental trees. He is a wide-awake, energetic man, and from a modest beginning, in which he was dependent upon his own resources, has become one of the most prosperous and substantial citizens of his community. In politics he has been a steadfast Republican since casting his first presidential ballot for Abraham Lincoln in 1864, and as a man and citizen contributes his full share toward enhancing the intellectual and moral welfare of his township and county. For several

years he has most capably served as a member of the school board, and is now serving his second term as township trustee. He and his estimable wife hold membership in the Le Roy Methodist Episcopal church, with which he is officially connected and is now one of the trustees, while fraternally he belongs to the Grand Army Post of the same place. He has ever been found prompt and true to every engagement, and no trust reposed in him has ever been misplaced.

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MISS SUSAN LOEHR is a representative of one of the oldest and most highly respected families of Bloomington, being a daughter of Peter J. and Anna B. (Schneider) Loehr, who located here in 1846. The father was a native of Germany, and on first coming to this country located in Somerset, Somerset county, Pennsylvania, where he was united in marriage with Miss Anna B. Schneider, a native of that place and a daughter of Jacob Schneider, also a resident of Somerset, who had come to America from Germany when a young man. The grandfather was a business man of considerable prominence and served as justice of the peace for a number of years. His advice was often sought on different matters, and he was a man looked up to and honored by all who knew him. He and his family held membership in the Lutheran church. His brother laid out the early part of the town of Somerset, and the family was always prominently identified with public affairs there.

For some years after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Loehr continued their residence in Somerset, Pennsylvania, where he engaged in business as a merchant tailor,

and later followed farming in Somerset county. There eight children were born to them and seven of the number came to Bloomington, these being Clarissa, who married Dr. H. H. Painter and came to Bloomington prior to her parents, her death occurring here; Frederick, a painter by trade, who died in Mobile, Alabama; Susan, our subject; Catherine, who married William Weyand, of Somerset, and both died in Bloomington; Francis, who, as a surveyor, went to Walla Walla, Washington, in 1852, is now deceased; William, a retired farmer, who is now living in Bloomington; John H., who for some years served as county treasurer of McLean county, Illinois, and died in Bloomington in 1886; Anna, deceased; and Charles, who was employed in the county treasurer's office from the time he was a young man until his death in 1886. He served in the civil war in an Illinois regiment.

On coming to McLean county in 1846, the father purchased a farm west of the city, and made his home thereon until his death, which occurred in 1852. The mother long survived him, passing away in 1881, at the advanced age of ninety years. She continued to reside upon the farm for some time after her husband's death, but finally removed to Bloomington and purchased a comfortable home at No. 512 West Front street, where she spent her remaining days. Before coming to Bloomington the parents both joined the Christian church, and united with the congregation here when the church was quite small. They were numbered among its most active and prominent workers, and their lives were ever in harmony with their professions. They received and merited the high regard of the entire community and those who knew

them best were numbered among their warmest friends.

Miss Loehr, of this review, was born June 7, 1817, and now occupies a pleasant home at the corner of West and Front streets. Like the other members of the family she is a member of the Christian church and has the respect and esteem of all who know her.

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FRANK MORRISON, a leading plumber and steam-fitter, and a prominent business man of Bloomington, was born in Glasgow, Scotland, December 29, 1844, a son of Frank and Jeanette (Cumming) Morrison, also natives of Glasgow, which has been the home of the family for many generations. There the parents both died in the faith of the Presbyterian church, of which they were faithful and consistent members. The paternal grandfather of our subject was Alexander Morrison.

Mr. Morrison, of this review, was educated in the grammar schools of Glasgow and at the age of thirteen years began learning the plumber's trade, at which he served a seven-years' apprenticeship. After thoroughly mastering the business in all its details, he worked as a journeyman for a short time in Glasgow, and was then employed at the ship building yards of Caird & Company, on the river Clyde, working on the plumbing of the Atlantic line of steamers for five years.

In 1868, Mr. Morrison was married, in Glasgow, to Miss Ellen Cowan, daughter of Robert Cowan, of Sterlingshire. After his marriage he worked on the steamers of the Cunard line, the North German Lloyds line, and those of the Peninsula Steam Packet Company, an Oriental



line, whose steamers sailed from Southampton to Bombay, India, and other eastern points. His work on these vessels was of a most modern character. In 1872, Mr. Morrison came to the United States, landing at New York on the 4th of July. After spending about a year in looking for work in different Pennsylvania towns, he came to Bloomington in 1873 and accepted a position with George McIntosh, a plumber and steam-fitter of this city, for whom he worked one year. He was next with Robert Loudon, when he first started into the plumbing business, and remained with him for seven years as foreman.

In 1883, Mr. Morrison embarked in the same business on his own account in Hill's block on South East street, and when the quarters became too small to accommodate his constantly increasing business, he removed to the Gerkin block on East street. Subsequently his business again demanded larger quarters and he removed to the Stevenson block on Front street. He is now located at No. 206 East Front street, occupying the whole store, twenty-four by one hundred feet. He has had many of the largest contracts in the city for both steam heating and plumbing, and during the busy season employs about fifteen men. He was one of the first board of examiners of plumbers for the city and still holds that position.

Mr. and Mrs. Morrison have a family of nine children, two of whom were born in Scotland, and the others after the emigration of the family to America. In order of birth they are as follows: Frank, Jr., who is engaged in the plumbing business in Pontiac, Illinois; Jennie; Robert, a plumber of Bloomington, who wedded Mary Emerson, and has one child, Helen; Charles is married and is with our subject in business;

Ellen, who was educated in the high school of Bloomington, as was also her sister Jennie; and John, James, Bell and Margaret, who are still attending school. The family have a pleasant home at No. 802 East Front street, which is one of the best parts of the city. Both Mr. and Mrs. Morrison are earnest members of the Second Presbyterian church, and he is also a member of Evergreen Lodge, No. 265, I. O. O. F. Politically he is identified with the Republican party, but has never been an aspirant for office, preferring to give his undivided attention to his business interests. In business affairs he is honorable, prompt and reliable, and the success that has come to him is due entirely to his own industry, sound judgment and good executive ability.

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**M**ARKS BANKS, a pioneer of McLean county, and for the past thirteen years president of the Old Settlers' Society of Dawson township, came to this county in 1834, and for sixty-five years has been one of its honored citizens. He was born in Montgomery county, Virginia, January 12, 1823, and is the son of Cassell and Mary (Watkins) Banks, both natives of Virginia. They were the parents of eight children, of whom Mrs. Sarah Martin, John, Mrs. Elizabeth McDonald, George, and Mrs. Ruth Wall are deceased. The living are Marks, the subject of our sketch; Thomas, who resides in Saybrook, McLean county; and Mrs. Mary Vanscoyoc, living in Dawson township. The paternal grandfather, John Banks, was a native of New Jersey, who moved in an early day to Montgomery county, Virginia, and there married Miss Short.

The subject of this sketch came to Mc-



Lean county with his parents when eleven years of age, at which time the country was almost entirely in its primitive state, although there were settlements in various parts of the county. Two years after the arrival of the family his mother died, after which Marks really commenced life for himself. It was his lot to work, and work hard. The virgin soil must be broken, crops planted and harvested, log cabins built, and, in fact, everything must be done to make "the wilderness blossom as the rose." In doing his part in the development of this country, it may be surmised there was little time, even if the opportunity was offered, for obtaining an education. The opportunities, however, were improved whenever given, and Mark obtained a good common-school education, but the little obtained in the primitive school house is not to be compared to what he has since learned in the school of experience.

On the 15th of April, 1847, Mr. Banks was united in marriage with Miss Rebecca Vanscoyoc, daughter of James and Drusella (Lewis) Vanscoyoc, natives of Pennsylvania and Virginia, respectively, but who were also numbered among the pioneers of this county. Mrs. Banks was one of a family of three sons and three daughters. By this union there were four children, one of whom died in infancy. Mary was the wife of William Van Gundy. She died leaving three children: Frank, Harry and Clay. Rachel E. died in maidenhood. Millard C. grew to manhood and married Ara Hoover, daughter of George L. and Susan (Bane) Hoover, who are natives of Virginia, but who now reside in McLean county. Three boys have come to bless this union, Earl, Cassius Cassel and George James. Mrs. Rebedca Banks departed this life February

19, 1890, at the age of sixty-six years, and her remains were interred in the Dawson cemetery. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and died in the hope of a blessed resurrection and a life beyond the grave, where there shall be a reunion of loved ones.

Mr. Banks has been honored by the citizens of the township with various offices of honor and trust. For years he occupied the responsible position of school director and did all in his power to advance the interests of the public schools. He also served as a member of the county board of supervisors, making an efficient member of that body. As postmaster of Senex he served for one year, the post office being in his house. In politics he has been a Republican since the organization of the party, and has always been an advocate of its principles. Locally, however, he votes for the best man nominated for office. He is non-sectarian in his religious views, and endeavors to gauge his conduct by the golden rule. He has been an extensive reader of the current events of the day, and always endeavors to be posted on what is going on in his state and nation.

Although he has reached almost his four score years, he is yet hale and hearty, sound in body and mind, and is surrounded by many friends. He likes to meet with his associates of the past, and recall the events of the days gone by, the time when the country was new, when wild game of all kinds abounded, when men and women went to church in common everyday garments and worshiped God with all the zeal possible. For the purpose of keeping up the memories of the past and to renew old acquaintances, he assisted in organizing the old settlers' society, which has its meetings,

annually. While the ranks of the pioneers are thinning very fast it is needful that the present generation should know of the toils they endured and give them the reverence their due. To no man in McLean county is greater honor due in this respect than to Marks Banks, the pioneer of 1823.

**COLONEL HENRY G. REEVES.** It is a well attested maxim that the greatness of a state lies not in its machinery for government, nor even in its institutions, but in the sterling qualities of its individual citizens, in their capacity for high and unselfish effort and their devotion to the public good. The name of Colonel Reeves is one which has been long and conspicuously identified with the history of Illinois, and the goal toward which he has hastened during his many years of toil and endeavor is that which is attained only by such as have by patriotism and wise counsel given the world an impetus toward the good; such have earned the right and title to have their names enduringly inscribed on the pages of history.

He was born in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, June 12, 1844, a son of Barnes C. and Mary M. (Gray) Reeves. His paternal great-grandfather, Abner Reeves, was an officer in the Revolutionary war, a member of the New Jersey troops, and his commission is now a cherished heirloom in possession of the Colonel. The grandfather was Manassah Reeves, of Pennsylvania. The father was born near Monongahela, Pennsylvania, was there reared and when a young man went to Pittsburg, where he engaged in the lumber business. In the latter city he married Miss Mary, daughter of James Gray, one of the pioneers and

prominent citizens of Pittsburg. He was a native of Ireland, was of Scotch ancestry, and in his religious faith was a Presbyterian. In politics James Gray was a Democrat and was a personal acquaintance of Jackson and Van Buren. In 1855 Barnes C. Reeves removed with his family to a farm in Old-town township and there made his home until his death. He died in 1856, leaving a widow and three children, of whom the Colonel is the eldest.

The childhood of our subject was spent in Pittsburg and on the old farm until 1860, when he entered the Illinois Wesleyan University, pursuing his studies there until after the inauguration of the civil war, when with many of his college chums he enlisted in Company G, Sixty-eighth Illinois Infantry, in May, 1862, when not yet eighteen years of age. The regiment was assigned to the army of the Potomac and he remained with his command until the expiration of his term of service.

After receiving an honorable discharge at the close of his service Mr. Reeves engaged in teaching school and completed his University course by graduation in the class of 1866. He had the honor of being salutatorian, and was graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. He immediately began the study of law with Judge O. T. Reeves, was admitted to the bar in 1867 and with the exception of the periods spent away from the city or in official service has engaged in the practice of his profession continuously since, meeting with excellent success in his endeavors. In course of time he took the Master of Arts degree and served as attorney for his alma mater for ten or twelve years or until he went to Springfield on official duty.

The Colonel is a stalwart Republican

and has long taken a personal interest in politics, doing all in his power to promote the growth and insure the success of his party. He has served as alderman of the sixth ward of Bloomington, and throughout Governor Fifer's administration he served as his private secretary. Immediately on his retirement from that office he was appointed by Governor Altgeld on the court of claims as its Republican member for a term of four years. He was for many years a member and judge advocate of the Second Brigade of the Illinois National Guards, and has always maintained an interest in military affairs.

Colonel Reeves was united in marriage in Bloomington, December 25, 1867, to Miss Harriet Niccolls, a daughter of John Niccolls, one of the early residents of Bloomington, to which city he removed from Pennsylvania. They have one child, Violet N. The parents have long been faithful and consistent members of Grace Methodist Episcopal church. The Colonel is a member of the College Alumni Association, and for some years was its president. He is also a member of the Masonic fraternity and a member of the State Bar Association. He was on the program at a meeting in which they had addresses from Vice-President Stevenson, Judge Blodgett and Mr. Burrough. He delivered an address on "The question as to whether this state ought to have a new constitution," taking strong grounds in favor thereof in a most able, earnest and carefully prepared speech. He also delivered the same address before the gathering of the state board of supervisors, it being a matter of vital interest to the commonwealth. It was a most clear and masterful argument, setting forth the condition of our state at the time

of the adoption of its various constitutions, the transformations that have since been wrought, and the necessity for a new organic law brought about by our different methods of business and political life at the present time. He strongly urged the curbing of the powers of trusts and corporations, the just assessment of all property, whether belonging to an individual or a company, and the adoption of a provision whereby representation shall not depend entirely upon population but also upon the extent of territory which the designated population shall occupy. This is to keep the control of the state from ever entering the hands of Chicago, for in the course of a few years the metropolis of Illinois would find it possible to dominate the entire commonwealth. The whole address was marked by practical common sense, looking to the interests of the majority and not of the minority of millionaires and capitalists, and was permeated by a patriotic spirit which has characterized the entire career of Colonel Henry G. Reeves, one of Bloomington's most honored and respected citizens.

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SAMUEL BUSH is one of the honored pioneer residents of Chenoa, whose life is a verification of the fact that the inevitable law of destiny accords a tireless energy, industry and ability a successful career. A community depends upon commercial activity, its welfare is due to this, and the promoter of extensive and legitimate business enterprises may well be termed its benefactor. Prominent in his adopted city stands Samuel Bush, a native of Pennsylvania, who was born in Shippensburg, Cumberland county, on the 5th of June, 1822. His parents were John and Rebecca



(Boilue) Bush, both of Pennsylvania, who came to McLean county in 1857, locating and building the first house in Chenoa. The former opened a hotel here, the Bush House, which he conducted for a number of years. He was a cabinet-maker by trade, and in this pursuit was engaged for fifty years. In politics he was a Republican, to which party he gave his support. His death occurred in 1882, at the advanced age of ninety years, and that of his wife ten years previously, when in her eighty-first year.

Of the eight children of this worthy couple six survive, the subject of this sketch being second in order of birth. He was reared in his native town in Pennsylvania, where he received his education in the common schools, and where he learned the cabinet-maker's trade, in which he was engaged for twenty-five years. Upon reaching his majority he started in business for himself, and worked at various points in the east, until his thirty-sixth year, when, in 1858, he removed to McLean county, settling in Chenoa, where his parents had preceded him by one year. He followed his trade here and in the surrounding counties until 1861, when at the opening of the civil war he enlisted as a member of Company D, Eleventh Illinois Cavalry, under Captain Armstrong, with Colonel R. Ingersoll in command. He entered the regiment in 1861 as a sergeant, and received promotions throughout the various campaigns, until at the close of the war he was holding the commission of first lieutenant. He participated in a number of prominent battles, among which were Shiloh, Pittsburg Landing, Corinth, Memphis and various minor conflicts. In 1865 he returned to McLean county and purchased a farm of eighty

acres, trading it after a time for the Smith Hotel in Chenoa, which he conducted for a time, and later another hotel, the Exchange, which he soon abandoned. In 1876 Mr. Bush took up a claim in Kansas, which he sold after three years and returned to Chenoa. In 1883 he went to Texas and spent two years on a ranch, going later to Fort Worth for a short time, and then returning to Chenoa, where he now lives a retired life. On the 10th of April, 1877, Mr. Bush was united in marriage to Miss Mary Ann East. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and in politics gives his support to the Republican platform. In manner he is pleasant and affable, and a stranger in his presence is at once perfectly at ease.

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SAMUEL R. HILTS, who resides in a beautiful home on section 15, Towanda township, where he and wife owns eighty acres of fine farming land, together with an additional eighty acres on section 14, is numbered among the most progressive farmers in the township. He was born September 17, 1866, near the village of Towanda, on his father's farm, and is the son of George and Mary (Wilmuth) Hilts. He is one of a family of seven children, the others being Walter C., chief clerk in the office of the Port Arthur Land and Insurance company, of Kansas City, Missouri; Dr. Mark B., a practicing physician of Sloan, Iowa; Anna, wife of James Jeffrey, of Sloan, Iowa; Jessie, wife of Frank Rayburn, of Jefferson, Iowa; Effie, who is teaching in the public schools of Oregon, Illinois; Laura, who is engaged in teaching in the public schools of Sloan, Iowa.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood on his father's farm in Towanda town-



ship, and was educated in the common schools. He remained at home, assisting in the cultivation of the home farm until he attained his majority. He was married December 3, 1895, to Miss Anna Jones, daughter of Nelson and Eliza (White) Jones, by whom he has one son, Noel Jones, named in honor of his great-grandmother.

As a life calling, Mr. Hilts selected farming, an occupation to which he had been reared, and the year succeeding his marriage they erected their present fine and substantial residence, in which they have since continued to reside. He is a good farmer, and thoroughly understands his business, and in addition to a general line of farming, he has made a specialty of the breeding of Poland-China hogs of pure blood. He has been very careful in the selection of his stock, especially for breeding purposes, and his herd contains some choice animals of undoubted pedigree.

In politics Mr. Hilts is a Republican, with which party he has been identified since attaining his majority. He has served as collector of his township, discharging the duties of the office most efficiently during the years 1893-94. Fraternally, he is a member of Success Lodge, No. 480, K. P., of Towanda, and has passed all the chairs. In religious belief he is a Presbyterian, and he and his wife hold membership in the church of that denomination in Towanda. Both are highly esteemed for their many good qualities of head and heart, and they have many friends in the township and county.

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CHARLES E. MOOTS, a progressive farmer and stock raiser of Money Creek township, resides on the old home-

stead of his father on section 18, where he is engaged in general farming and stock raising. He was born November 11, 1863, on the place where he now resides, and is the son of Charles M. and Adaline (Busick) Moots, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of McLean county, Illinois. Charles Moots, the grandfather of our subject, was also born in Ohio, and there his son, Charles M., spent the first eighteen years of his life, after which he came to McLean county, Illinois, and located in the village of McLean. He was a shoemaker by trade and followed that occupation for some years after coming to the county. It was not his intention, however, to make that his life work, and as soon as his means would permit he invested his earnings, purchasing eighty acres of the farm on which our subject now resides. From time to time he added to its area until he now owns three hundred and fifty acres. He began in a very early day to make a specialty of raising horses for the markets, and was one of the first to bring imported horses into the vicinity. In 1881 he moved to Hudson, and commenced the business of importing and handling draft and coach horses. He remained at Hudson for three years and then moved to Normal, where he still continues to live, and where until quite recently he was actively engaged in the horse business. In the family of Charles M. and Adaline Moots were nine children, seven of whom grew to maturity: Mary, wife of T. C. Jenkins, of Money Creek township; Frank, of Helena, Montana; Ida, wife of Wilbur Rogers, of Kansas; Charles E., our subject; Lincoln, who died at the age of nine years; Bunn C., a farmer of Money Creek township; Warren, deceased; Bert and Gertie, at home.

The subject of this sketch was reared on the old homestead in Money Creek township, and in the public schools of the township he received a good common-school education. Since attaining his majority he has been carrying on the home farm with good success. In 1889 he purchased in Ohio the imported coach horse, Prince, and since that time has dealt quite extensively in thoroughbred stock. For the past five years he has made a specialty of handling and training saddle horses. He has now Noel Fox, a fine coach horse, which has won prizes at various local fairs, and also at the state fair at Springfield, Illinois.

On the 10th of September, 1885, Mr. Moots was united in marriage with Miss Rebecca Michaels, daughter of Aaron and Martha (Blough) Michaels, the former a native of Germany who came to the United States a boy of nine years, and grew to manhood near Johnstown, Pennsylvania, and the latter a native of Pennsylvania, where Mrs. Moots was also born. The latter was one of a family of thirteen children, as follows: Amanda, who died in childhood; Albert, who resides in Richland county, Illinois; Benjamin, of Johnston county, Missouri; Noah, a farmer of Money Creek township; Peter now living in the state of Oregon; Sarah, wife of John Hedrick, of Money Creek township; Mary V., the deceased wife of John E. Gladheart, of Olney, Illinois; Rebecca, wife of our subject; Daniel, who died in childhood; John, who resides with his sister, Ira, a farmer of Hudson township; William and Willard, twins, both of whom died in infancy.

To Mr. and Mrs. Moots six children have been born—Florence, Herbert Spencer, Hazel, Edna, Fern and Frank Dow. In politics, Mr. Moots is a Republican, but

he is not a politician in the sense of office-seeking. The only official position held by him was that of road commissioner, an office which he filled for two years. Fraternally, he is a member of Towanda Lodge, No. 437, and religiously he and his wife are members of the United Brethren church, and in the work of which they are much interested. He is one of the members of the official board. They are both well known and are held in the highest esteem by all.

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ROBERT K. LEECH. The records of the lives of our forefathers are of interest to the modern citizen, not alone for their historical value but also for the inspiration and example they afford; yet we need not look to the past. Although surroundings may differ the essential conditions of human life are ever the same, and a man can learn from the success of those around him if he will heed the obvious lessons contained in their history. In business affairs, Mr. Leech is energetic, prompt and notably reliable, and the success that he has achieved in life is due entirely to his own well-directed labors.

He was born in McKeesport, Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, September 2, 1831, a son of James and Dorcas (McKee) Leech. The father was a native of Westmoreland county, the same state, and being reared to agricultural pursuits he became a successful and prominent farmer, owning a large farm which extended almost from the Monongahela to the Allegheny river. Upon that place he continued to reside until called to his final rest. In the same neighborhood was born and reared his first wife, the mother of our subject, whose brothers and family laid out the town of McKeesport and are to-day quite

prominent there and in Pittsburg. Our subject's parents both held membership in the United Presbyterian church, in which the father served as elder and was an active worker. To them were born eight children, namely: Jane, who is married and lives in Pennsylvania; David, a resident of Lincoln, Illinois; James, who is one of Pittsburg's distinguished citizens; Henry, who died in Bloomington; Robert K., our subject; John, deceased; William, still a resident of Altoona, Pennsylvania; and Dorcas, deceased. The paternal grandfather of our subject was one of three brothers who came to this country from the south of Scotland and settled in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, at an early day. He served in the Revolutionary army.

As the nearest school house to his childhood home was six miles distant, Robert K. Leech had no educational advantages before he reached the age of ten years. He then went to live with a man nearer the school and was to have been allowed to pursue his studies there three months each winter, but only received five months' instruction in all. By subsequent study and observation, however, he obtained a good practical education, and before the presidential election of 1852 began to read in order that he might vote intelligently. At that time he was a supporter of the Whig party and since its dissolution has been an ardent Republican.

During his youth, Mr. Leech learned the mason's trade, and at the age of eighteen years started out to make his own way in the world. In the fall of 1852 he came to Rock Island, Illinois, where he worked until the following spring, and then went to Cedar county, Iowa. There he started in business for himself as a contractor and met with

excellent success. After working in different places, he finally located in Decatur county, Iowa, where he was married March 20, 1859, to Miss Elizabeth Michael. For two years he made his home there and then came to Bloomington, where his wife's people were living, leaving Decatur county on the day Fort Sumter was fired upon. Soon afterward he enlisted in Company F, Ninety-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was sent to Benton Barracks, Springfield, Missouri, where he was taken ill and left. He was finally able to rejoin his regiment in month of March, 1862, at Gladden Valley, Missouri, and remained with it until the close of the war. He participated in the sieges of Fort Morgan, Vicksburg and Morganzie Bend, was also at Brownsville, Texas, and when hostilities ceased was honorably discharged. After his return to Bloomington, Mr. Leech engaged in the grocery and meat business on Front street for a number of years, and on selling out again turned his attention to contracting in masonry. He has laid a large number of foundations in the city, and has also laid the sewers and done other work for the city, employing a large force of men. He has erected and owns a good double flat at 607 Jefferson street.

Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Leech, namely: William died at the age of thirty-one years, leaving a widow and one child, Bessie, who are now living in San Antonio, Texas; Katie F., a very prominent young lady, highly esteemed by all who knew her, died at the age of twenty-three years; Lena M. is the wife of James R. Clark, of Bloomington, and has one child, James R., Jr.; Norma F. is the wife of William Masters, a farmer near Petersburg, Illinois, and has one child, Edith; and John



has been superintendent of the fifth division of the government printing office at Washington, D. C., for the past nine years. Mr. Leech attends and supports the Baptist church, of which his wife is a faithful member, and socially he affiliates with W. T. Sherman Post, G. A. R.

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FRANCIS M. JONES was for many years actively identified with the agricultural interests of McLean county, but is now living retired in the city of Bloomington, though he still owns and successfully manages three valuable farms in this region and one in Arizona. He is a native of Ohio, born seven miles from Springfield, March 8, 1833, and is a son of Abraham R. and Matilda (Noel) Jones. The birth of the father occurred in Cayuga county, New York, October 17, 1791, and in that state he spent his boyhood and youth. During pioneer days, in 1808, he accompanied his parents, Benjamin and Mariam (Russ) Jones, on their removal to Champaign county, Ohio, locating near Urbana. The grandfather was of Welsh origin and was a soldier of the Revolutionary war.

After residing in Champaign county for a time, Benjamin Jones removed to Clark county, Ohio, where he made his home, married and reared his family, prior to his coming to Illinois in 1856. During the war of 1812, the father of our subject was engaged in hauling provisions for the soldiers. On the 20th of May, 1813, he was united in marriage with Miss Matilda Noel, who was born in Kentucky, July 29, 1795, but soon after her birth her parents removed to Maryland, where they lived for seven years before going to Clark county, Ohio. They were of German de-

scend. Purchasing a farm near Springfield, Ohio, Abraham R. Jones engaged in its operation until 1856, and was one of the extensive farmers of that locality. In that year he sold his interests in the Buckeye state and came to McLean county, Illinois. In Towanda township he bought a farm, which our subject carried on, while he lived retired from active labor, enjoying a well-earned rest. In early life he was a Whig, as were the other members of the family, and later he became a staunch supporter of the Republican party. Both he and his wife were earnest and faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal church, with which she united at the age of fourteen years, and were held in high esteem by all who knew them. He died February 13, 1865, and she passed away March 7, 1880.

In the family of this worthy couple were ten children, all of whom reached years of maturity with the exception of one, who died at the age of one and a half years. The others were as follows: John, who died in Ohio, December 22, 1845; Levi, who is still a resident of Springfield, that state; William, who died in this county, February 2, 1894; Eliza A., a resident of Towanda, Illinois; Cyrus, who is living retired in San Jose, California; Abraham, who died in McLean county, April 4, 1878; Nelson, a prominent farmer of this county, who died February 26, 1896; Phœbe, wife of Martin Arthur, of Towanda; and Francis M., of this review.

The early education of our subject was acquired in the country schools near Springfield, Ohio, and he later attended Wittenburg College in that city, receiving much better advantages than the average boy of his time. He remained under the parental roof until the fall of 1850, when he came to



McLean county, Illinois, on a visit, riding horseback the entire way and being nine days upon the road. Returning to his father's farm, he remained there until the summer of 1852, when he again came on horseback to this county, bringing with him land warrants or soldier's scrip to nine hundred and twenty acres. He entered his land at the land office at Danville, which was re-opened in 1852 after being closed on account of locating the Illinois Central Railroad lands. He had quite an experience in getting his lands located, as there was a terrible crowd. He secured all his land in Towanda township, it having been previously examined by him, and a part of it he still owns. His brothers were also interested in the land, and they at once turned their attention to their improvement and cultivation. One year Mr. Jones herded cattle, which, after fattening for market, he drove to Chicago, where they were killed and sold at dead weight. In the fall of 1855 he went to Texas, where he spent the following winter, and on his return to Illinois in the spring of 1856 began breaking prairie. That year his father arrived in McLean county, and our subject was in partnership with him in their farming operations until the latter's death. He had previously purchased an adjoining farm, and after the mother's death bought the interests of the other heirs in the old homestead, which he still owns, having here two hundred and twenty acres. Besides his place he owns two other large farms in the county and one in Arizona. Upon his home farm he erected a good residence in 1872, and made many other improvements which added to its value and attractive appearance, so that it is now one of the most desirable farms in the township. Always a progressive and

enterprising man, he was the first to bring a reaper into the neighborhood, it being an old Atkinson, which he purchased in 1856 or 1857, and hauled from Chicago by wagons. He also introduced short-horn Durham cattle and Poland China hogs into this region, and although he did not make a specialty of exhibiting his stock at fairs, he took many premiums when they were shown.

On the 28th of January, 1858, Mr. Jones married Miss Ann Maria Hampleman; of Clinton, Illinois, who was born in Clark county, Ohio, October 18, 1839. Her father, Daniel Hampleman, was also born near Springfield, Ohio, March 7, 1816, and there grew to manhood. He was married January 3, 1839, to Miss Sarah Fletcher, who was born in Greene county, Ohio, April 14, 1821. They lived for some time in Clarke county, Ohio, but when Mrs. Jones was a child of three years removed to Perry county, Illinois, where the father engaged in farming for four years, returning to Clark county, Ohio, at the end of that time. In the fall of 1851 he again came west, and this time located near Crawfordsville, Montgomery county, Indiana, where in the midst of a heavily timbered track, he and a brother-in-law, William Lewls, erected a sawmill. Here much of the material for the early homes of that region was cut. Mr. Hampleman sold his property there in 1853 and came to Illinois, locating on a farm near Clinton, where he still resides. He is a Republican in politics and a highly respected citizen of his community. His estimable wife died November 13, 1867. Of the nine children born to them three died in infancy. The others are as follows: Ann Maria, wife of our subject; Emily, deceased wife of John White, of Blooming-

ton; Percy Laura, deceased wife of Charles Davis, of Leroy; Marion, who died at the age of nineteen years; Albert, who died at the age of twenty-nine, leaving four children, at Clinton, Illinois; and Elizabeth, wife of Joseph Abbott, of Towanda.

Mrs. Jones' paternal grandfather was George Hempleman, as the name was then spelled. He was born near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, about 1788, and was a son of George and Margaret (Duffy) Hempleman, both natives of Germany, the former born in 1732, the latter in 1734. They came to America in 1752 and were married the same year. They located within three miles of Philadelphia, where were born to them four children: Elizabeth, George, Catherine and Nancy. At an early day the family removed to Clark county, Ohio, settling on the south fork of the Little Miami river, where the father died in 1842 at the extreme old age of one hundred and ten years, and was buried at South Charleston, that county. He was a hero of the Revolutionary war. His wife died in Virginia, in 1805. George Hempleman, jr., became a farmer of Clark county, Ohio, where he spent the greater part of his life, dying there in 1853. He was twice married, his first wife being Ruth Howell, who died in 1825, leaving a family of nine children: Nancy, Elizabeth, Susan, Delilah, Margaret, Henry, Daniel, Mary Ann and Cynthia. The second wife was Sarah Bilderback, who died in 1847, and to them were born twins: George F. and Sarah.

Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Jones but three are now deceased, namely: Stella, who died June 22, 1893, at the age of twenty-one years; Lola, who died December 6, 1866, at the age of four years; and Max, who died October 22, 1876, at

the age of sixteen months. Those living are as follows: Price N., who resides on the home farm, married Emma Raridon, of Towanda, and has three children: Vesta, Essyl and Lenn; Edwin E., who resides in Bloomington, but also owns a farm in Towanda township, married Josie Shaw and has one child, Ebon; Maurice E., who lives on the large farm of his uncle, adjoining that of our subject, married Alice Rockle and has four children: Leora, Erlma, Francis William and Elmo; and Cyrus Grant, of Arizona, married Hortense Frankenberg and has one child, Leona.

Mr. Jones continued to actively engage in agricultural pursuits in Towanda township for many years, and in his undertakings met with far more than ordinary success. Though he still continues to manage his farms, he is now practically living retired at No. 507 East Locust street. He also rents the large farm of seven hundred acres belonging to his brother in California and also the one belonging to his sister in Towanda. In business affairs he is energetic, prompt, and notably reliable. His strict integrity and honorable dealing commend him to the confidence of all; his pleasant manner wins him friends, and he is one of the popular and honored citizens of Bloomington. He was made a Mason at Towanda Lodge in 1867; was a charter member of the same and master for three years, and also represented it in the grand lodge.

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MORTON V. SHAVER, a well-known conductor on the Chicago & Alton Railroad, residing in Bloomington, Illinois, is one of the oldest and most trusted employes of that road, having been in its ser-

vice continuously since 1863. He was born in Ripley, Chautauqua county, New York, November 3, 1840, and belongs to a family of Holland origin on the father's side that was founded in the Mohawk Valley at an early day. On the mother's side the family is of Scotch and English origin. His father had two uncles who were at Fort Schuyler. The father, Henry J. Shaver, was born near Troy, Washington county, New York, July 20, 1781, and at the age of nineteen years removed to Oneida county, that state, locating near Rome, where he engaged in the manufacture of potash. About 1836 he removed to Chautauqua county, where he followed the same business and later conducted a hotel at Quincy, now Ripley. He was twice married, the second time, in Rome, New York, to Miss Lois Hemstead, the mother of our subject. She was born February 27, 1795, and was a daughter of James Hemstead, whose birth occurred November 26, 1768. By this union four children were born and three are still living, namely: Mrs. Susan Leadingham, of Shenandoah, Iowa; Mrs. Eliza Hubbard, of Spring Prairie, Walworth county, Wisconsin; and Morton V., our subject. The father died in Ripley, New York, November 3, 1846, on our subject's sixth birthday, and the mother passed away in July, 1884, at the advanced age of eighty-nine years.

The first thirteen years of his life Morton V. Shaver passed in his native place and there he acquired his education. He then accompanied his mother on her removal to Walworth county, Wisconsin, where she owned a farm, and he assisted in its operation for four years. At the end of that time he went to Leavenworth, Kansas, where he spent a year, and then returned home. On the president's first call for seventy-five

thousand volunteers to assist in putting down the Rebellion, he enlisted for three months in Company A, Tenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, but the time was afterward extended to three years. With the Army of the Cumberland, he participated in the battles of Perryville and Murfreesboro. From wounds received in the latter engagement and also from disease contracted in the army, he was incapacitated for further duty and was honorably discharged from the service.

Returning to Wisconsin, Mr. Shaver remained there until his health was somewhat restored, and in the spring of 1863 came to Bloomington, where he entered the service of the Chicago & Alton Railroad as brakeman on a freight train. A year and a half later he was promoted to freight conductor, and held that position for twenty years, considering it preferable to that of passenger conductor. He ran a through freight to Chicago for nine years, or until the Kansas City division was opened, when he was made conductor of a through freight running to Louisiana. While thus employed he contracted ague, and at the end of two years was compelled to return to Bloomington. For four years and a half he ran a passenger train from Dwight to Washington, and it was during this time that Mr. Keeley, of the gold cure fame, was doing a most extensive business at the former place, having as many as thirteen hundred patients at a time. Since then Mr. Shaver's runs have all been in and out of Bloomington. There is no man in central Illinois that has been longer with one road than he, as for over a third of a century he has been in the employ of the Chicago & Alton, which fact plainly indicates his careful attention to business and the trust and confidence re-



posed in him by the company which he has so faithfully served.

In 1866 Mr. Shaver married Miss Minnie Kinnan, of Lexington, Illinois, whose girlhood was passed in Galesburg, and who is a daughter of Erastus Kinnan, of Scotch descent on the father's side and on the mother's side of Scotch and French origin. Of the four children born to them, two are still living: Charles H., a conductor on the Southern California Railroad and a resident of San Bernardino; and Mabel, a most accomplished young lady and an artist of rare ability, who is at home with her parents. The family have a pleasant home at the corner of North West and Locust streets. Politically Mr. Shaver is a staunch Republican, and fraternally is an honored member of the Order of Railway Conductors, No. 87; W. T. Sherman Post, No. 146, G. A. R.; and Evergreen Lodge, No. 265, I. O. O. F., with which organization he has been connected for thirty-three years, and from which he received a veteran badge two years ago.

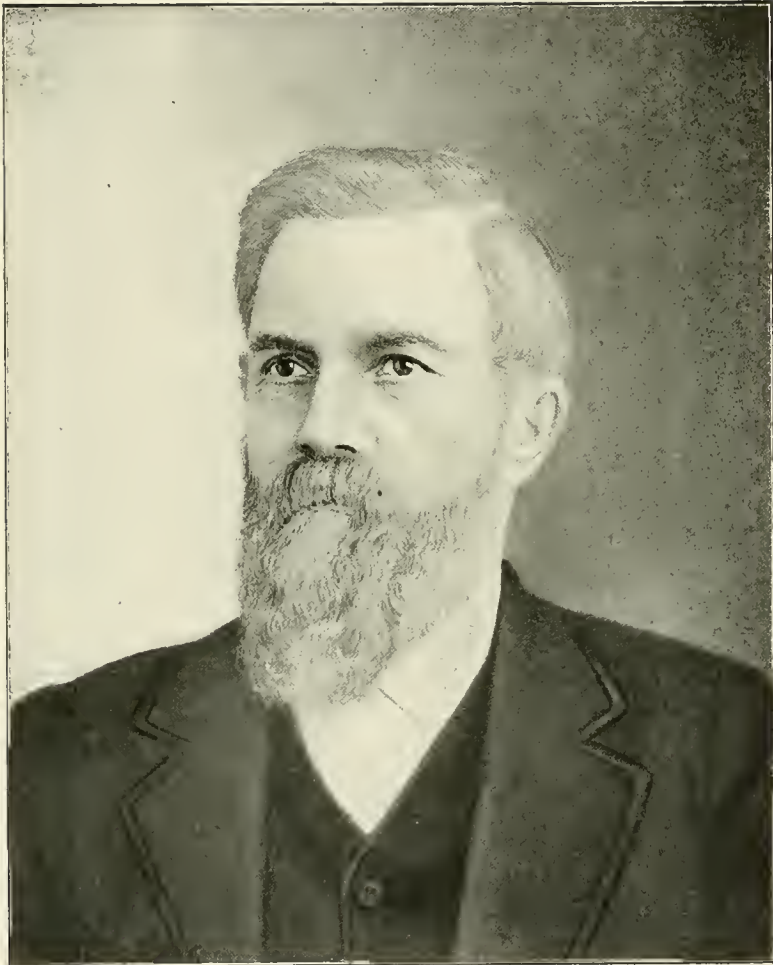
**E**LIJAH HERR. It is an important public duty to honor and perpetuate, as far as possible, the memory of an eminent citizen—one who by his blameless and honorable life and useful career reflected credit not only upon his city, but upon the county and state as well. Through such memorials as this at hand the individual and the character of his services are kept in remembrance, and the importance of those services thus stand as an object lesson to those who come after him, and though dead he still speaks. Long after all recollection of his personality shall have faded from the minds of men, the less

perishable record may tell the story of his life and commend his example for imitation.

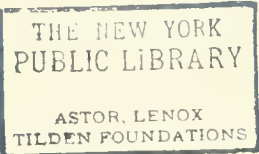
Mr. Herr, who was for years prominently identified with the interests of Bloomington and McLean county, was born in Denmark, New York, September 16, 1826, a son of Peirsoll and Drusilla Herr. The name was originally spelled Hoar, and the founder of the family in this country was one of the early Puritans who located in Massachusetts. Senator Hoar comes of the same stock. The first nine years of his life our subject spent in his native place and then accompanied his parents on their removal to Old Town, McLean county, Illinois, where the father engaged in farming until his death in 1840. The son then went to work for seven dollars per month and with the money thus earned finished paying for the farm.

Until about twenty-one years of age, Mr. Herr continued to engage in agricultural pursuits, and then worked at cabinet making in Bloomington and Clinton, Illinois, for a time. Later he formed a partnership with A. C. Washburn and engaged in the grocery business on Main street, Bloomington, until their store was destroyed by fire. Mr. Herr then bought out his partner, rebuilt the brick block now standing, and continued in successful business there for some years. Finally selling his store, he bought the Hodge farm and again turned his attention to agriculture for a number of years, returning to the city in March, 1886. He was a member of the Harber Brothers Company, and while the other members of the firm gave their attention to the business, he acted as overseer in the building of their fine new warehouse on South Main street and the Lake Erie Railroad. He was a heavy stockholder in the new company at the time of its incorporation, and was also a





ELIJAH HERR.



director of the Third National Bank for many years. Upon the death of Mr. Dooley in November, 1893, he was made acting president of the bank and on the 5th of February, 1894, was elected to that position, which he most capably filled until he, too, was called to his final rest May 7, 1895.

On the 1st of May, 1855, Mr. Horr married Miss Martha Elizabeth Packard, of Bloomington, a daughter of Job and Martha (Clark) Packard. The father, who was an expert gunsmith, died in Massachusetts, in 1836. The Packard family was originally from England, and the first to come to this country located in Bridgewater, Massachusetts. Mrs. Horr was born in Milbury, that state; she went to school at Worcester, whither her mother removed on the death of her husband, and after attending the schools at that place and Berlin Academy, taught one term in Massachusetts before coming west. In the fall of 1849, in company with her mother, brother Alvin, and sister Perces, she came to Bloomington and taught on South Centre street the first school that ever drew public money in the city. She not only conducted that school successfully, but also taught others in dwellings for two or three years, and had charge of the Mount Hope and Price schools and others in the county, being one of the popular teachers in this section of the state at that time. Although she has no children of her own, Mrs. Horr has reared two, Mrs. Fannie P. Harber and J. Warren Young, who were given all the advantages possible.

At one time Mr. Horr was a member of the county board of supervisors, and was one of the advisory committee that built the new court-house. He was chairman of

the board, and during the erection of that handsome structure, he devoted all of his time during the day and many of his evenings to the business, of which he had almost complete charge. He bought all of the material, and it is mainly through his untiring labors that the county to-day has the finest court-house in this section of the state. Of the four hundred thousand dollars expended upon it, every cent was accounted for, and so ably and satisfactorily was everything done that there was not a single lawsuit. Mr. Horr built the residence where Peleg Soule now lives, and there he made his home a short time, and then removed to his farm. He was one of the most successful and honored business men of the town; had the confidence and respect of his tenants and business associates, and was held in high regard by all who knew him. From the organization of the Republican party he was one of its stanch supporters. In his life span of over sixty-eight years he accomplished much, and left behind him an honorable record well worthy of perpetuation. Those who were most intimately associated with him speak in unqualified terms of his sterling integrity, his honor in business and his fidelity to all the duties of public and private life. He attended the Baptist church. Although Mrs. Horr attended that church with her husband, she is a charter member of the Second Presbyterian church, and is one of the very few original members now living. She is a most estimable lady of many sterling qualities, and has a large circle of friends in the community.

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SAMUEL B. WRIGHT, M. D., a well-known physician and druggist of Stanford, has for almost a quarter of a century

enjoyed a successful and lucrative practice in his chosen profession, and as the result of his untiring labors, his ambition, his energy and well directed efforts, he is to-day the possessor of a comfortable competence and a beautiful home, where he spends his leisure hours enjoying the society of his family and friends in the midst of all the comforts that go to make life worth the living.

A native of Tennessee, Dr. Wright was born at Gallatin, Sumner county, June 18, 1850, and is a son of John M. and Mary (Wright) Wright, who were born, reared and married in Gallatin. The father, whose birth occurred in 1820, was a farmer by occupation and was quite extensively engaged in stock raising, his specialty being blooded horses. After his marriage he located upon his farm at Gallatin, where he continued to reside until called from this life in 1865. His wife died ten years before, leaving three children, of whom the Doctor is the youngest.

Dr. Wright obtained his literary education in the public schools near his boyhood home and later entered the medical department of the University of Nashville, Tennessee, where he was graduated in 1875, with all the honors attached to such a profession. He also attended Vanderbilt University, of Nashville, Tennessee. Immediately afterward he came to Stanford, Illinois, and opened an office. A few years later, having met with success financially as well as professionally, he embarked in the drug business on a small scale, and as his trade gradually increased he sold his first store and erected a larger and better building upon property which he purchased. There he has since engaged in business with marked success, carrying a large and well

assorted stock of drugs, patent medicines, etc., and he also devotes considerable time to the practice of medicine.

On the 23d of December, 1875, Dr. Wright was united in marriage with Miss Rachel Brooks, a daughter of P. T. and Eliza Brooks, who were old settlers of McLean county. Of the four children born of this union, only two are now living, namely: Katie, who is attending school in Eureka, Illinois; and Miles E. Wright, of Stanford. Mrs. Wright holds membership in the Christian church, to the support of which the Doctor gives liberally although not a member. Socially, he belongs to the Knights of Pythias, the Knights of the Maccabees, Royal Neighbors and Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in all of which he has served as examining physician and is still filling that office. He has been a member of the town board, and has had other official positions offered him, but his ambition is not along that line and he prefers to give his time and attention to his business and professional duties. He is of a very social and genial nature and has an extensive circle of friends and acquaintances who esteem him highly for his genuine worth.

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JOSEPH STUCKEY, of Danvers, Illinois, an ordained minister and Bishop of the Mennonite church, has been a resident of Danvers township since the spring of 1850. He is a native of Alsace-Lorraine, and was born in 1825, at which time that country was a part of France. His parents, Peter and Elizabeth Stuckey, were natives of Switzerland. Peter Stuckey removed from his native province to France, when a small child with his parents, who both shortly



afterwards departed this life. He was then adopted by his grandmother, and remained with her until twelve years old, when he was compelled to go among strangers and earn his own living. At the age of seventeen years he became a member of the Mennonite church, with which he remained connected until his death, February 22, 1860. In 1824, he married Miss Elizabeth Summers, who was a native of Alsace-Lorraine, where her parents had fled from Swtzerland on account of religious persecution. She was born in 1802, and accompanied her husband to America in 1830. They first located in Butler county, Ohio, where they resided for twenty years, and in October, 1850, came to McLean county, and located in Danvers township, where the mother died in 1885. They were the parents of six children, of whom five lived to maturity.

The subject of this sketch, when he came to this country, landed in New Orleans, and thence went with his parents to Butler county, Ohio. There he worked on his father's farm, and received a limited education in the old log school house. He was married December 17, 1844, to Miss Barbara Roth, a native of his own country, born March 1, 1821, and who came to America in 1842. She was also a devoted member of the Mennonite church, and was a brave assistant and helpmeet of her husband in their earlier toils and struggles. She departed this life April 27, 1881. Their two children were Jacobina, the wife of Joseph S. Augsrgur, and fourteen children have been born to them, twelve of whom are now living; one of the children, Aaron, is a minister of the Mennonite church. Christian R. married Miss Catherine Strupher, and they are the parents of

three children, all living. Mr. Stuckey has fifteen grand-children and seven great-grand-children.

For his second wife Mr. Stuckey chose Mrs. Magdelina (Roth) Habecker, to whom he was married December 11, 1881. She is also connected with the Mennonite church. They occupy a pleasant and comfortable home in the village of Danvers, and besides this property, our subject owns two hundred acres of land in the township. He has devoted more than a third of a century of his life to the ministry, and in pursuance of the duties of his calling has traveled over the states of Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, employed in the establishment of churches, strengthening the weak, administering the sacrament, and attending to all the duties of a conscientious minister. He is a strong temperance man, and in politics affiliated with the Republican party.

The Mennonite church derived its name from Menno Simons, who was born in Friesland, in 1496. He was a Roman Catholic priest and a man of studious character and great learning. Leaving the mother church, he devoted himself to theological study, and published his book of doctrines in 1539. After the taking of Muenster, and execution of the leaders of the anti-Baptists, Menno Simons gave himself to the winning of the remnants of these deluded people from the lawless fanaticism into which they had fallen, or had been led, and with older and purer elements united them in the Neitherslands and North Germany; and these adherents to his view were known henceforth as Mennonites. While some of the earlier views of the anti-Baptists were retained by this society, their fanatical violence was

completely set aside. The Mennonites were carefully organized after what was regarded as the primitive Congregational model. They had ministers and deacons, and their discipline was very strict. They take the New Testament as their only rule of faith; that the term Person and Trinity ought not to be applied to the Son, Father, and Holy Ghost; that there is no original sin; that infants ought not to be baptized. They maintain that Christians should not bring lawsuits, demand interest, take oaths, or serve as soldiers. Some of them adopted feet washing in preparation of the Lord's supper. They dropped all the views conversive of civil rule, which has been held by the anti-Baptists. Their ministry is unpaid, and for the most part uneducated; yet of late there have been some changes in this respect.

The Galenas established a seminary in 1735, and in this country some effort has been made in theological education. Their simple lives, thrifty habits, and fidelity to promises, have made them many friends. They obtained toleration in the Netherlands, then in Germany and in England. Diversity of views in regard to strictness in excommunication, led to their division into the "free or strict," and "coarse or mild." The milder party divided on the question between Calvinism (the Aposistos) and Arminianism (the Galenists). In 1801 the parties united, the Galenists forming the major part. In Holland there are one hundred and twenty congregations and in Germania about fourteen thousand members. In Prussia they were relieved from the obligation to bear arms, and from the necessity of taking oaths, official or judicial. In 1867 the North German federal constitution imposed on them the obligation of military service. In 1783, nearly a century before

this, many emigrated from Prussia to Russia. In 1870 they reached the number of forty thousand. Here they enjoyed many privileges, among which was freedom from military service. They became rich and were generally reckoned among the best subjects of the crown. In 1871 they lost their privilege from military service, and the alternative was given between conscription and emigration, and they were allowed ten years in which to decide. They chose the latter, and in 1873 the first body arrived in New York, and from there proceeded to Kansas, where they made a settlement. The exodus became so great that the czar was compelled to withdraw his order to stop the movement. Before this time, however, many had emigrated to the United States, and thrifty societies had been established.

Upon the invitation of William Penn, in 1683, many came over and founded a settlement at Germantown, near Philadelphia, and in 1735 there were about five hundred families settled in Lancaster county. There are now about two hundred thousand of this denomination, of whom about one hundred and fifty thousand are in the United States, and twenty-five thousand in Canada.

The Armist or Omish Mennonites are more rigid in discipline and dress, proscribing even buttons as carnal vanities and luxuries. The Reformed Mennonites arose in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in 1811. Their aim is to restore the ancient faith and practice of their church. There are other subdivisions of later origin. There are about three thousand Mennonites in Illinois, fifty-two ministers and nineteen bishops. The church government is under one head, composed of the bishops of all the churches. Bishops and ministers are taken from the ranks of the church. There are three

grades of officers—bishops, ministers and elders. Ministers are ordained by bishops, and bishops are ordained by two or more bishops. The system of government is congregational, and all the affairs are settled by the congregation. They have no catechism, and take the New Testament as a guide. The old Testament they regard more of a history.

The first building erected by the Menonites in this section for religious purposes, was across the line, in Woodford county, in 1853. In 1872 they erected a new building in Danvers township, where the old and the new congregations worship. The membership of this society numbers about four hundred, and is presided over by Rev. Joseph Stuckey.

**T**HOMAS B. KILGORE is a prominent representative of the farming and stock-raising interests of McLean county, having carried on operations along those lines in Colfax for almost a third of a century, though he now makes his home in Bloomington. He is a man whose sound common sense and vigorous, able management of his affairs have been important factors in leading him to wealth, and with his undoubted integrity of character have given him an honorable position among his fellow men.

Mr. Kilgore was born in West Jefferson, Ohio, March 23, 1840, and is a worthy representative of an honored pioneer family of that state. His grandfather, Thomas Kilgore, was born in Pennsylvania, in 1789, and in 1794 was taken by his parents to Circleville, Ohio. The following year, however, they removed to Madison county, that state, where the great-grandfather took up quite a large tract of land. There the

grandfather continued to make his home throughout life, and was one of the most prominent and influential men of his community. He possessed a certain amount of rough eloquence, his opinions always carried weight, and as justice of the peace, he was conveyancer and advisor to the early settlers of his locality. He died in 1872, honored and respected by all who knew him. He married Miss Jane Patterson, daughter of Robert Patterson, of Madison county, Ohio, but formerly of Virginia. Both were active members of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which the family also belonged.

John Kilgore, father of our subject, was born in Plain City, Madison county, Ohio, October 30, 1815, and on reaching man's estate he engaged in farming and stock dealing there. Prosperity crowned his efforts in life and he became the owner of four hundred acres of valuable land there and one thousand acres in Illinois. He was one of the leading citizens of his community and was called upon to serve in a number of township offices. He married Miss Malona Case Beach, a daughter of Uriah Beach, and a descendant of the Noble family which was founded in New England in 1632. They made their home in Columbus, Ohio, until 1893, when they came to Bloomington to visit their children. Here the father was stricken with paralysis, but lingered for over a year, dying January 19, 1895. The mother, who has been a lifelong member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and a true and earnest Christian, is still living. In their family were four children, of whom two also survive, Thomas B., our subject, and J. M. Sarah A., the wife of Samuel Stauffer, died in 1893, and Albert died in 1860, at the age of eleven years.



During his boyhood and youth Thomas B. Kilgore pursued his studies in the common schools and the Ohio Wesleyan University, and when his education was completed, he returned home, where he remained until after the opening of the Rebellion. In August, 1861, he enlisted in Company K, First Ohio Cavalry, which was assigned to the Army of the Cumberland and was under the command of Generals Kilpatrick and Sheridan. He participated in the battles of Louisville, Nashville, Chattanooga, Corinth, Missionary Ridge, Chickamauga, Kenesaw mountain and Atlanta. Previous to its evacuation, he rode around Atlanta and was there at the expiration of his term of service. At the battle of Chickamauga, he had a horse shot from under him, but fortunately he was never wounded.

Returning to his home in Ohio, Mr. Kilgore remained with his father until March, 1867, when he came to McLean county, Illinois, and located at what is now Colfax, where he purchased three hundred and twenty acres of raw land, and built thereon a small house. He at once turned his attention to the cultivation and improvement of his place and as his financial resources increased, he extended its boundaries until he now has four hundred and eighty acres of the best farming land to be found in the county, it being richer and more productive than when he first located thereon. He has made all of the improvements upon the place, including the erection of good and substantial buildings. From the first he has been interested in the raising and feeding of stock, making a specialty of short horn cattle. He is also largely interested in horses, and has made two importations of English Shires. Mr. Kilgore was one of the incorporators of the Corn Belt Bank, of

Bloomington, and has been a director since the start. He continued to live upon his farm until the fall of 1888, when he moved to Bloomington so that he might better educate his children.

In April, 1867, Mr. Kilgore wedded Miss Mary E. Batterton, of Lawndale township, McLean county. Her father, Martin Batterton, who is now ninety-two years of age, his birth having occurred in 1807, was one of the first settlers of this county. He came here from Kentucky in 1831, and in 1833 entered the farm on which he still resides. This honored pioneer has throughout these many years been one of the most prominent and highly respected men of Lawndale township. He married Miss America Taylor, who came here from Covington, Kentucky, and died March 3, 1883, at the age of sixty-five years. Mr. and Mrs. Kilgore have four children, namely: John M., a farmer of Lexington, McLean county, married Lucy Kennedy, and has two children, Margine and Gaylord K.; Lizzie is now the wife of W. H. Welch, of Lexington; Maude B. graduated from Wesleyan College with the degree of A. B., and is now assistant principal of the high school of Lexington; T. Beach is now a freshman of the Wesleyan University. The wife and mother, who is a most estimable lady, holds membership with the Methodist Episcopal church, and Mr. Kilgore attends services with her and contributes to its support. He is the oldest member now living of Colfax Lodge, No. 799, F. & A. M., and also belongs to W. T. Sherman Post, G. A. R., of Bloomington. He is a pronounced Republican in politics, and has filled a number of local offices, serving as supervisor eleven years and school treasurer sixteen years. In all the relations of life he has been found true to every trust



reposed in him, and he receives and merits the high regard of those with whom he has come in contact, either in business or social affairs.

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ELLIS DILLON, deceased, was a pioneer of pioneers, having come to the state in 1825, and few men were better known in McLean and adjoining counties. In fact he was well known throughout the entire state, as well as in some of the adjoining states, having been one of the largest importers of horses in the entire country. He was born in Clinton county, Ohio, March 25, 1816, and was the son of Jesse and Hannah (Pugh) Dillon, both of whom were also natives of Ohio. In his native state Jesse Dillon followed farming, continuing in the same line after his removal to this state. With his family he came to Illinois in 1825 and located in Tazewell county, in what was afterwards Dillon township, and near the present town of Tremont. His family consisted of eleven children—John, Daniel, William, Aaron, Phœbe, Polly, Ellis, Katie, Jesse, James and Lydia. The father died of consumption many years ago. He was the son of Daniel and Anna Dillon, and was born in North Carolina in 1797, and was also one of eleven children.

The subject of this sketch was nine years old when he accompanied his parents to Tazewell county, Illinois, and in that county he grew to manhood and received a limited education in the pioneer schools. The country was in its primitive state when the family settled there, and for several years Indians were numerous in the vicinity and were frequent callers at the cabins of the settlers, much to the disgust of the

women. Wild game was very abundant and easy to entrap or kill. But there was much to do besides entertaining Indians and killing wild game. The pioneer must work, he must cultivate the soil, and there must be no idlers among them. A lad of nine years, there was something that even Ellis could do, and he was compelled to do his share of the farm labor. The schooling, however, was a good one to him, and gave him the rugged constitution that carried him through more than four score years of life.

Mr. Dillon was married three times. He was first married in September, 1836, to Miss Mary J. Fisher, by whom he had one daughter, Malinda, who died at the age of eleven years. His wife dying on the 19th of February, 1840, he married Miss Mary Hudson, and they became the parents of two children, both of whom died in infancy. The second wife dying on the 9th of February, 1845, he married Miss Martha Fisher, a sister of his first wife. She was born in Clinton county, Ohio, July 10, 1827, and is a daughter of James and Amy (Bennett) Fisher, who were both natives of the same state. His life calling was that of a farmer, which he followed in Ohio as well as in this state. In 1828, with his wife and six children, he left Ohio for the prairie state, and on his arrival located in Tazewell county, where he entered a tract of land and commenced its cultivation. He died October 22, 1844, while his wife survived him many years, dying on the 11th of September, 1861. They were the parents of thirteen children, of whom Mrs. Dillon was sixth in order of birth. The others were Mary J., Susanna, Elizabeth, Jesse, Isaac, Emily, Louisa, Stephen, Lydia, Elvira, James L. and Amanda. To our sub-

ject and wife were born five children, the first born dying in infancy. Adolphus now resides in Normal, where for a number of years he engaged in the business of importing and dealing in horses. He is also a large landowner in McLean county, and is now farming and stock raising. He married Paulina Britt, and they have three children: Harley D., Mertie M. and Bessie. Alpheus died at the age of two years. Sarah married Reuben Bright and they became the parents of three children, of whom two died in infancy. The living one is Bernice A., who makes her home with Mrs. Dillon, her grandmother. Mrs. Bright died April 28, 1881. Emma F. married Lyon Karr, and they have one child, Helen. They make their home in Eureka, Illinois.

Mr. Dillon commenced to take a lively interest in stock raising at a very early day, and always took a great pride in the business, especially in raising fine horses. In 1865 he moved with his family to the city of Bloomington, where they lived three years and where he was employed in the stock business. In 1868 he moved to Normal and continued in the same line for a number of years. In 1870 he made his first trip to Europe, where he made a large purchase of French draft horses, which he brought with him to this country. In the stock business he was quite successful, continuing in the same until his death. He made importations of horses in each of the following years: 1870-2-4-5-6-7-9, 1880-1-2. In some of these years he made two importations. His importations were soon known throughout the length and breadth of the land, and sales were made by him to persons in various states of the Union. In addition to his stock business, he engaged to some extent in farming. He was the owner

of two hundred acres of land, part of which was within the corporate limits of the city of Normal and the remainder adjoining. This land is now occupied by his widow, a portion of it being rented by the Phoenix Nursery Company and the remainder kept in pasture.

The early life of Mr. Dillon was filled with the thrilling incidents common to the pioneers of this locality, and his recollections of early times were quite clear almost to the end of his life. His stories of the Indians, of the deep snow, and the great sudden change in the weather, were most interesting to the younger generation. He was also a great friend of the colored man, and many interesting accounts are told of how he assisted many runaway slaves to their freedom during slavery days. When but a boy he said that if he lived to see the darkies free he would then think that he had lived long enough. He was instrumental in organizing the Colored Christian Church in Normal, and ever stood ready to lend a helping hand in its welfare. In his death the colored people of Normal lost their best friend.

In politics, Mr. Dillon, as might be inferred, was a strong Republican, and especially was he with his party on the great issue that called it into existence. For five terms he served as supervisor of his township and made an efficient member of the board. As school director he served three terms, and in the public schools he was always greatly interested.

Mr. Dillon was called to his reward on the 13th of April, 1899, when a little more than eighty-three years old. In 1838 he united with the Christian church, and for sixty-one years was an earnest and constant worker in that body. He had an abiding

faith in the religion of Christ and was an earnest advocate of the union of all God's people. Mrs. Dillon, who survives him, is also a devoted member of that church.

CHARLES H. LAKE, a well-known and highly respected citizen of Bloomington, is the possessor of a handsome property which now enables him to spend his declining years in the pleasureable enjoyment of his accumulations. The record of his early life is that of an active, enterprising, methodical and sagacious business man, who bent his energies to the honorable acquirement of a comfortable competence for himself and family.

Mr. Lake was born in Pleasant Valley, Fulton county, New York, January 31, 1830, and comes of good old Revolutionary stock, his great-grandfather, John Lake, having aided the colonies in their successful struggle for independence. He was a resident of the Empire state and lived to a ripe old age. Crapo Lake, the grandfather of our subject, took up arms against the mother country in the war of 1812, and aided in the defense of the country which his father had helped to free. He was probably born in Dutchess county, New York, where he followed farming throughout his active business life and where his death occurred.

Joshua Lake, our subject's father, was born in Pleasant Valley, Dutchess county, New York, in 1807, and there during early life he became thoroughly familiar with the manufacture of woolen goods. Prior to his marriage he removed to Fulton county, New York, and in partnership with Eleazer Wells, he built and operated a woolen mill at Johnstown, then the county seat. It was considered a large mill at that time and con-

tained all the various departments, and was one of the two factories at that place. Closing up his business there in 1843, Mr. Lake removed to the town of Oakfield, Genesee county, which was then considered quite far west and there engaged in farming, making a speciality of raising wheat. His next home was in Lockport, Niagara county, the same state, where he purchased land and followed agricultural pursuits until death, in 1875. He was married near Johnstown to Miss Elizabeth Soule, who was born and reared in Pleasant Valley, and was a daughter of Peleg Soule, a native of Providence, Rhode Island, and an early settler of Fulton county, New York. To them were born six children, who reached years of maturity, and of these our subject is the eldest and the only one living west of Buffalo, New York. The mother died in 1873. Both parents were members of the Universalist church and were held in high respect by all who knew them.

Charles H. Lake accompanied his parents on their various removals, and acquired his education in the schools of Johnstown, New York, and of Genesee county and Lockport. Until eighteen years of age he remained upon the home farm, assisting his father in the arduous task of clearing away the timber and breaking the land. He then served a three years' apprenticeship to the carpenters and joiner's trade, and later engaged in contracting and building as a member of the firm of Simmons & Lake, erecting many of the stores, churches and private residences in Youngstown, besides many buildings in the surrounding country. He did an extensive business there until 1857, when he came to Bloomington. He first purchased land in Old Town township, but three years later removed to Lexington



township and from there to Shirley, where he turned his attention to general farming and the raising of horses. In 1878, he went to Funks Grove, where he bought a large farm and gave more attention to the breeding of English draft, Norman and other heavy horses, in which business he met with most excellent success. When he took possession of the farm at Funks Grove it was run down, but he erected thereon a comfortable and commodious residence and substantial outbuildings, making it one of the most attractive and desirable country homes in the county. He still owns that farm, but in December, 1888, he removed to Bloomington, where he owns a beautiful home on McLean street, near Franklin Park—one of the most fashionable quarters of the city. After coming to Bloomington he became interested in fast horses, and was half owner of Prince Hal, a half brother of Hal Pointer. This horse, considered one of the finest in his day, was started at Terre Haute, Indiana, in 1891, and run his fourth race in 2:16. After owning him for two years, Mr. Lake sold the horse for eight thousand dollars, the most ever paid for a horse in Bloomington. In this venture our subject met with success. Owing to ill health he is now living retired, having laid aside all business cares.

On the 27th of August, 1857, Mr. Lake was united in marriage with Miss Ruby Dye, of Porter, Niagara county, New York, a daughter of Kenyon Dye. She departed this life in 1883, leaving three children, namely: Frank L., who is engaged in farming west of McLean, married Anna Boland, and has four children, Herbert, Bernice, Ivan and Ruby; Charles H., Jr., married Addie Crane and now operates the old homestead; and Cora is the wife of Charles

Boland, of Wapella, Illinois, and has two children, La Verne and Neoline. Mr. Lake was again married December 26, 1883, to Nina Webb, of Twinn Grove. She is an earnest member of the Christian church, and presides with gracious dignity over their beautiful home. In political sentiment, Mr. Lake is a Republican, and he has filled many township offices while living on his farm, including that of supervisor. At one time he was an active member of the Grange and now holds membership in McLean Lodge, F. & A. M. The success that he has achieved in life is entirely due to his own well directed efforts and he has made for himself an honorable record.

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GEORGE W. BOWMAN, alderman of the fourth ward of Bloomington, is a well-known contractor and builder, of whose skill and ability many notable examples are to be seen throughout the city. Thoroughly reliable in all things, the quality of his work is a convincing test of his own personal worth, and the same admirable trait is shown in his conscientious discharge of the duties of different positions of trust and responsibility to which he has been chosen in business and political life.

Mr. Bowman was born in Germantown, Stokes county, North Carolina, June 19, 1847, a son of Henry and Elizabeth (Fowler) Bowman. The father was born in Guilford county, that state, in 1810. The grandfather, Henry Bowman, was of Pennsylvania-Dutch stock and was one of a colony who settled in Germantown, North Carolina, at an early day. The father was reared and educated in his native state. When quite young he joined the Methodist Episcopal church, and at the age of seventeen was



licensed a minister. For half a century he was connected with the North Carolina conference, during which time he had charge of churches in Winston, Salem and Surrey. He was a strong Union man during the civil war and on account of his belief his life was often threatened, but being a minister he was not forced from the community. He is still living, an honored and respected old gentleman, and finds a pleasant home with our subject. The wife and mother departed this life in 1886, at the age of seventy-five years. She was a daughter of Elijah and Frances Fowler, who were of English birth. They, too, were residents of Stokes county, North Carolina, until 1852, when they came to McLean county, Illinois, where Mr. Fowler engaged in farming in Dry Grove township until his death. Our subject is one of a family of eleven children, four sons and seven daughters, who in order of birth are as follows: Mrs. Hester Ann Rumbley, of St. Augustine, Florida; Mrs. Martha George, of Winston, North Carolina; Maggie; Susan, deceased; Joseph; David, deceased; George W.; Elizabeth, deceased; Peter; Mrs. Rebecca Wrigley; and Laura, deceased.

George W. Bowman attended the subscription schools of Germantown, but as the schools were poor his education was limited. When the civil war broke out his sympathies were with the north, but soon after he attained his sixteenth year he was forced into the Confederate army under an act of the Confederate congress, conscripting all able-bodied men from the age of sixteen to sixty. He enlisted in General Breckenridge's First Tennessee Battery of Light Artillery, and joined the regiment at Lead Mines on New river, in southwestern Virginia, in July, 1864. He joined this battery so that he

might get farther north and west, hoping to make his way through the lines, as prior to his conscription he had wished to get north and join the Union army. He was in active service until February, 1865, participating in the engagements around Wythville, Marion and Washington Salt Works, Virginia, and Bristol, Greenville, Knoxville and Jonesville, Tennessee. During all this time he faithfully obeyed the Confederate orders, but was firm in his purpose to join the Union army. The first opportunity that he deemed safe which presented itself was when he was detached from the battery and detailed to take some horses back to North Carolina, near the Tennessee line. After delivering them he made his way over the mountains into East Tennessee, and at Jonesboro found the stars and stripes of the Federal army. He went into camp under a white flag and was closely scrutinized and examined to see that he was not a spy, but being a mere boy he was finally released. Stopping for a time in Greenville, Knoxville, Chattanooga and Nashville, he worked at anything he could find to do and finally made his way north, arriving in Bloomington, April, 1865, clothed in his rebel uniform. His grandfather had died, but his mother's people gave him shelter. It was July before he was able to let his parents know where he was, and in the meantime they supposed he had been killed by the bushwhackers in the mountains of Tennessee.

During the first summer and fall spent in McLean county, Mr. Bowman worked on a farm, and in the winter attended school. In 1866 he commenced learning the mason's trade, at which he served a three-years' apprenticeship, and then worked as a journeymen, his employer soon making him

foreman. On the third of July, 1869, he married Miss Elizabeth Davis, of Blooming Grove, a daughter of John M. Davis, a well-known farmer of that place. They made their home in Bloomington until 1872, Mr. Bowman being engaged in business as a contractor in masonry. Having accumulated some money, he decided to go west, and with his wife and two children, Grant and Edward, he made his way to Nebraska, where he located. During his residence there his older son died, and as his wife was in ill health their physician advised him to bring her back to her native state that she might recover her usual strength. After disposing of his effects he returned to Bloomington, where he arrived in February, 1874, with only twenty dollars with which to start in life anew. He resumed business in the city, but for a time lived just south of here on a small tract of land which he purchased. He has since done a successful business as a contractor and builder, erecting many of the best business blocks in the city, and has given employment to many men. He has also done considerable contracting elsewhere in the county. He has a pleasant home on East Clay street, where he has lived for the past twelve years and also owns other property in Bloomington.

Mr. and Mrs. Bowman have five children living, namely: Edward, who married Lillie George, and is engaged in business in Washington, D. C.; Claude, a resident of Bloomington, who married Edna Rhoades and has one child, Glenn; Maude, wife of Warren S. Bryant, an employe of the Chicago & Alton Railroad, who resides in Bloomington, and by whom she has two children, Grace and Irene; and Grace and Lee, both at home. The parents both hold

membership in the First Methodist Episcopal church, and socially Mr. Bowman is a member of the Knights of the Globe. He was an active member and president for two years of the Builders' & Traders' Exchange, and has always been prominently identified with the Republican party. While a resident of Blooming Grove he served as school director for nine years, in which position he rendered his fellow citizens most efficient service, being greatly missed as a school worker when he left the district. After coming to Bloomington, he took no active part in public affairs until the spring of 1898, when he was elected alderman of the fourth ward by a large majority, over Mr. Martin, a strong opponent and an ex-member of the council. During his first year as a member of the board, he was on the fire department, public buildings and grounds, and sidewalk committees. His public and private life are above reproach, for his career has ever been one characterized by the utmost fidelity to duty.

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DR. OWEN T. HANSON, D. D. S., of Lexington, Illinois, has the reputation of being a dentist of rare skill and ability, one who is an honor to the profession. He is a native of McLean county, born on section 24, Gridley township, the homestead of his parents, February 26, 1861, is a son of William and Frances E. (Walston) Hanson, both of whom were natives of Pickaway county, Ohio, the father born in 1825. His early life was spent much as that of other farmer boys, attending school during the winter months, and assisting in farm work during the remainder of the year. This was continued until he was nineteen years old, when he

decided to secure a better education than that afforded in the common schools, and to that end entered Normal University, Normal, Illinois, where he spent two years in study. For the next four years he was engaged in teaching in the public schools of McLean, Woodford and Livingston counties, his last term being with the Panola school.

While engaged in teaching, Mr. Hanson made up his mind that he would engage in dentistry as a profession, and to that end spent about eighteen months with Dr. J. A. Schofield, of El Paso. In 1885 he entered the Ohio Dental College, of Cincinnati, and taking the regular course, in 1887 he was graduated with the degree of D. D. S. He then came to Lexington, and with a debt of three hundred and fifty dollars hanging over him, which was contracted in securing his professional education, he purchased the office and good will of Dr. C. T. Gray, and at once commenced active practice, and has since given it his entire time and attention. He has always tried to keep up with all the latest improvements in his profession, and with this end in view took a post graduate course, in 1897, in the Chicago Dental College, now recognized as one of the best institutions of the kind in the country, and which is well supplied with every appliance known to the profession, and its faculty being composed of the most skillful and well read men.

On the 4th of June, 1891, Dr. Hanson was united in marriage, in his own home in Lexington, to Miss Edith Kneeland, who was born in New York city, and daughter of E. H. Kneeland, a highly educated man, who during his residence in the east gave his life to the cause of education, teaching in the schools of New York city. He was

widely known in the electrical field as a lecturer on electricity. He was also a frequent and valuable contributor to such well known journals as the Scientific American, as well as other periodicals devoted to scientific subjects. A sister of his, now a resident of Washington, D. C., is widely known in the lecture field, especially in temperance work. On account of ill health Mr. Kneeland left the city, came west, and located in Dwight, Illinois, and engaged in agricultural pursuits. At that time Mrs. Hanson was but seven years of age. She is a highly educated woman, having graduated from the high school at Dwight, and finishing her education in Wesleyan University, at Bloomington. For three years prior to her marriage she was assistant principal of the Lexington high school. Two children have come to bless the union of the Doctor and his wife, Frances and Cecil.

In politics, Dr. Hanson is a staunch Republican, but he is not a politician in the ordinary sense of the term, neither is he an office seeker. He takes an active interest in everything beneficial to his adopted city and county, especially is he interested in the cause of education. For three successive terms of three years he has served on the school board, and for five years he acted as secretary of the board. He was one of the building committee during the erection of the new school house, which is a credit to the city and county, and for three years has been chairman of the grounds and building committee. He has also taken an active part in the organization and maintenance of the Lexington Public Library, and is one of the directors of the association.

Fraternally, Dr. Hanson is a member of Ideal Lodge, No. 338, K. P., and of Mc-



Lean Lodge, No. 206, I. O. O. F., and in the latter organization is now past grand. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, holding membership with the camp at Lexington. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and has been quite active in church work. He served for several years as superintendent of the Sunday school, and for several years has been leader of the choir and chorister in the Sunday school. Mrs. Hanson is also a member of the same church and like her husband has been active in all church work.

In 1893 the Doctor erected his present tasty and comfortable residence, and his home is the center of social life and activity in Lexington, both he and his wife being good entertainers. They are held in the highest esteem by all, and exert an influence for good in the community. His professional skill is acknowledged by all, and he has been fairly successful in a financial way. In addition to his home in the city, he has a farm of sixty acres in Gridley township, which is rented.

**A**LFRED J. WELCH, a well-known farmer and stock raiser of Downs township, owns and operates a fine farm of three hundred acres on section 18. He is a native of McLean county, and was born in Downs township, July 5, 1855, and grew to manhood on the home farm. His education, began in the district schools of Downs township, was completed in Wesleyan University, which he attended for several terms. After leaving the institution, at the age of twenty-three years, he located on the farm where he now resides, and which then contained two hundred and twenty-six acres, and at once commenced

life for himself. Soon after locating on the place, he erected a large and substantial farm residence, and made various improvements on the farm of a most substantial character. His farm is well tilled, and is always kept under a high state of cultivation. His farming is of a general character, including stock raising, giving special attention to the latter line of his business. He annually feeds and prepares for the market about three car loads of stock, for which he receives the highest price.

On the 18th of November, 1879, Mr. Welch was united in marriage with Miss Belle Fulton, a native of the county, and who was before her marriage a teacher by profession. She is a sister of Albert Fulton, whose sketch appears on another page of this work. By this union there are five children—Nettie B., Archie Dean, Lois, Freddie and Dorris—all of whom are students in the home school, save the youngest.

The first presidential vote cast by Mr. Welch was for Rutherford B. Hayes in 1876, since which time he has voted for every presidential nominee of the party. He is a strong believer in the principles of the Republican party, and supports its ticket in national, state, county and township elections. For sixteen years he has been a member of the school board, a part of which times he has served as its president. He believes in good schools and in the best that can be had, always regarding it as poor economy in the hiring of an inefficient teacher in order to save a few dollars for the time being, thus requiring the student's longer attendance in the school room. He is a member of the United Brethren church, while his wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal. They both take an active



interest in the cause of the Master, and endeavor to do their duty faithfully for the extension of the kingdom of Christ on earth. Fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, both of the subordinate lodge and encampment, his membership being with the order in Bloomington. A well known citizen of the township, he is regarded as one of its best farmers, and socially he and his family are greatly esteemed. In the twenty-one years in which he has been actively engaged in the cultivation of the farm he has toiled hard, and success has in a measure crowned all his efforts.

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FREDERICK T. ASHTON, one of the most prominent musicians of Bloomington, was born in that city, July 15, 1871, a son of William H. and Eliza (Pottinger) Ashton. The father was born in London, in 1819, and was reared and educated there as a musician and choir master, playing in Covent Garden and other London theatres. There he was married, and, coming to the United States in 18—, he has been a resident of Bloomington for a third of a century. Here he has engaged in the shoe business and at the present time is also a dealer in men's furnishing goods. For a number of years he was in charge of choirs of different churches here. His wife holds membership in the Congregational church. In their family are eight children, four sons and four daughters, of whom our subject is the youngest.

Frederick T. Ashton acquired his literary education in the public schools of Bloomington, and his musical education was begun as soon as he was able to hold an instrument. When he was fourteen

years of age a company came to the city wanting an orchestra, and he with three others were chosen. He traveled with the company for four months and had charge of the little orchestra, but as he was not given his salary his father brought him home. He next played first violin in Schroder's Opera House here, and during the two years he was thus employed he gained much practical experience and also kept up his studies at the same time. At the age of seventeen he went to Chicago, and in the large music house of Lyon & Healy was employed in the stringing room, testing and stringing all new instruments. While there he studied with Professor Singer and also a noted Swedish violinist.

Mr. Durkee, superintendent of Lyon & Healy's factory, having become interested in our subject, arranged for a course, and he made great progress during the two years spent in that establishment. Resigning his position there, he traveled with a theatrical company all over the south, and on his return to Bloomington at the end of that time he took charge of the orchestra in the Durley theatre, and also engaged in teaching music. Later he spent one season with a thoroughly first class opera company which put on the Mascot and other popular operas and played in only the best cities. At the age of twenty he was leader of an orchestra in Cincinnati, where he was obliged to correct men much older in order to keep the music up to the required standard. An old German whom he thus corrected would not speak to him for a week, but finally came to him and offered him three hundred and fifty dollars for his violin. This instrument he values at five hundred dollars, but it is not for sale. The opera company with which Mr. Ashton was

connected was in Albany, New York, at the close of the season, and from there he went to New York City, where for seven weeks he was ill in Bellevue hospital before he was able to look for an engagement, his mother believing him studying harmony during this time. As he had exhausted his money, he was obliged to leave the hospital, as he would not submit to the treatment he received there as a charity patient, and finally found an old friend who cared for him until the arrival of his brother, who remained with him until his recovery. Returning to Bloomington, in 1891, he opened a school of music, giving lessons on the violin, mandolin, guitar and banjo, and as he was then the only teacher of the kind in the city, and there was no competition, he met with success from the start. His school was located at No. 409 North Main street. During the '80s he had also engaged in teaching and had established the old mandolin orchestra, which is still in existence, and of which he again has charge. In 1892 he became the leader of the orchestra of the Grand Opera House, but at the end of a season he was taken ill and the 'doctor advised a change. The following season was spent on the road with the Spooner Comedy Company, and on his return to Bloomington in 1893 he reopened his school and again took charge of the mandolin orchestra, both of which he has since conducted. His services are in great demand for weddings, receptions and all high class work of which he makes a specialty, and since February, 1897, he has had charge of the Grand opera house orchestra. His musical ability and success as a leader is well known to all theatre goers, and the orchestra in their dress suits presents a good appearance as

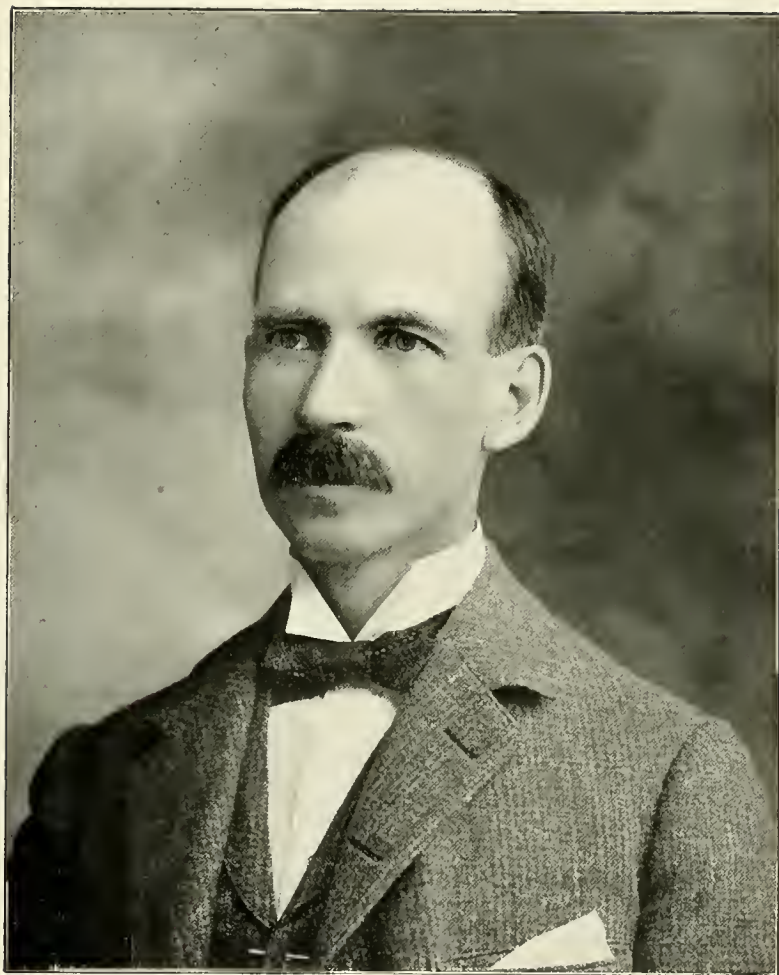
well as furnishing the public with the best of music. In 1898, as manager and director, he took permanent charge of De Molay's Band, which gives frequent concerts and has won an enviable reputation throughout this section of the country. He practically has control of all the musical organizations in the city, a rather remarkable thing for a man as young as he. He has as many as twenty-five musicians who have been under his direction for a number of years, and by treating them with kindness and as gentlemen, he has gained their entire confidence and respect. In token of their esteem, the orchestra presented him with a beautiful gold watch.

On the 6th of June, 1893, Mr. Ashton married Miss Elberta M. Richie, of Colfax, Illinois, a daughter of Christian Richie, and to them has been born a daughter, Doris E. They are members of the Second Presbyterian church, with which Mr. Ashton united about six years ago, and he has had charge of a number of church orchestras.

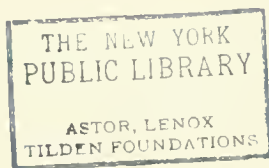
Mr. Ashton has composed many popular airs—beginning at the age of sixteen years. Usually, he does his composing after returning from parties. Recently he has formed a stock company among the members of his own orchestra for the purpose of publishing his compositions. His latest success is the Gay Tally-Ho, a popular two-step march.

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**WILLIAM HAYES BEAVER.** Everywhere in our land are found men who have worked their own way from humble beginning to leadership in commerce, the great productive industries, the management of financial affairs, and in controlling the veins and arteries of traffic and exchange-



WILLIAM H. BEAVER.





es of the country. It is one of the glories of our nation that it is so. It should be the strongest incentive and encouragement to the youth of the country that it is so. Prominent among the self-made men of Illinois is the subject of this sketch—the well known lawyer of Bloomington.

Mr. Beaver was born in Lewisburg, Union county, Pennsylvania, June 24, 1856, a son of Adam and Rebecca (Royer) Beaver. On the paternal side he traces his ancestry back to Valentine Beiber (as the name was then spelled), who came to this country from Germany about 1747 or 1748, embarking at Hamburg. His son, Adam Beaver, the great-grandfather of our subject, helped to lay out the town of Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, but was driven away by the Indians, and going to Philadelphia to sell town lots he there enlisted in the colonial army for the Revolutionary war, and was in the service from the beginning of hostilities until peace was once more restored. He was shot at the battle of Brandywine, but not seriously wounded. After the war he located in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, where he married and made his home throughout the remainder of his life. The grandfather, John Beaver, was born near Muncie, Pennsylvania, at what is called the Beaver settlement, and in early manhood moved to Union county, that state, where he married Anna Baker, and with the exception of one year continued to live in that county until called from this life. He was a good farmer and a Jacksonian Democrat in politics. Adam Beaver, our subject's father, was born in Union county, July 10, 1816, and was reared as a farmer boy upon the old Beaver homestead. In early life he learned the carpenter's trade, but later conducted a drug business for twenty-five years

and engaged in preaching as a Dunkard minister, both he and his wife being members of that religious denomination. They made their home in Lewisburg until 1871, when they removed to Hartleton, Union county, where the father died January 5, 1898, honored and respected by all who knew him. He always took an active interest in political affairs, and voted with the Republican party after its organization in 1856. He left five children, of whom our subject is next to the youngest. The mother was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, but when a child of ten or twelve years she accompanied her parents on their removal to Union county. Her father, Joel Royer, was a farmer by occupation and became a rich land owner in the latter county. Her grandfather, Christopher Royer, was one of the earliest settlers of Lancaster county. The Royers in this country are descended from a royal French family, of Alsace, which was founded in Maryland about 1750.

William H. Beaver began his education in the schools of Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. It was his father's intention to make him a farmer and with that in view he was bound out to his uncle at the age of twelve years, and until he was seventeen he followed agricultural pursuits through the summer months and attended the district schools during the winter season. Going to Milton, Pennsylvania, in 1874, he apprenticed himself as a blacksmith to Seidell & Tilden, carriage builders, and during his term of three years, he received his board and twenty-five dollars the first year, fifty the second and seventy-five the third. He then had charge of the shop as chief blacksmith for one year, but on account of the hard times he returned home in 1877, remaining

there six months. In 1878, he resumed work at his trade for George Hunt, a carriage manufacturer of Danville, Pennsylvania, remaining with him until November 1, of that year, when he began teaching at the Marsh school, a mile south of Milton. The next two years he taught at Ephrata, Pennsylvania, where the first paper mill in the United States was established, and where bullets of paper were manufactured during the Revolutionary war. Mr. Beaver was there during the years 1879 and 1880, previous to which time he had taken up the study of Latin and other branches, and for one term was a student in the Lewisburg University, where he completed the freshman year.

It was in May, 1881, that Mr. Beaver came to Illinois and first settled at Lena, where he worked at his trade for A. Shannon until the following July. He then joined his brother John in Chicago, and together they came to Bloomington, it being the intention of the latter, who was a druggist, to buy a store here, but being taken ill he did not do so. Our subject then accepted a book agency, and went to Burlington, Iowa, to sell Bibles and albums, in which he invested all his money, but the house absconded and he was compelled to sell his books as best he could to pay his bills. He returned to Bloomington with fifty-five cents in his pocket and ninety dollars' worth of books sold on three months' time.

Mr. Beaver then entered the law office of Tipton & Ryan, and read law with that firm and with Judge Tipton until admitted to the bar, in June, 1883, after which he opened an office and engaged in practice alone. In 1884 he was a candidate for the office of state's attorney, and though almost an entire stranger, he went into the con-

vention with eleven delegates. The opposing candidates offered him the position of assistant state's attorney if he would withdraw, but he refused this, though he left his delegates at liberty to vote as they saw fit. In the spring of 1885 he formed a partnership with Judge Tipton, under the firm name of Tipton & Beaver, which connection was dissolved in July, 1889, and he then engaged in practice with R. L. Fleming until September, 1890.

In the meantime, Mr. Beaver assisted in organizing the Equitable Loan & Investment Association, of which he was elected secretary, and served in that capacity and as attorney for the same until three years ago, when he gave up the latter position; as his duties had become too arduous, and was succeeded by Mr. Barry, of the firm of Fifer & Barry. As secretary and manager, he devoted his entire time and attention to the business of the association. It was mainly to our subject that the success of the enterprise was due, for he served as its manager from the start and displayed remarkable business and executive ability in the conduct of its affairs.

On the 3d of September, 1885, Mr. Beaver was united in marriage with Miss Ida Brand, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Brand, and to them have been born five children, namely: George Thomas; John Hayes; Margherita E.; Robert, deceased; and William. Both Mr. and Mrs. Beaver are active and prominent members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he is serving as steward, and he is also connected with the Young Men's Christian Association. He was one of the organizers of the Bloomington Club, and has always taken an active part in political affairs, as a duty and not as an office-seeker, though he was once the

candidate of the Republican party for alderman of his ward. He has a lovely home on East Grove street, where the many friends of the family are always sure of a hearty welcome, for there hospitality reigns supreme. The life of Mr. Beaver is a living illustration of what ability, energy and force of character can accomplish, and the city and state has been enriched by his example. It is to such men that the west owes its prosperity, its rapid progress and its advancement.

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**J**OHAN MOONEY, residing on section 9, Randolph township, is numbered among the substantial and well-known farmers of the south part of McLean county, who, by his own labor and enterprise, has acquired a valuable and well-improved farm of nearly two hundred acres, and which lies within two miles of the village of Heyworth. He was born June 22, 1833, in County Wexford, Ireland, and comes from a long line of noted ancestry, and the family is still living on the old farm they have occupied for over a century. The father, grandfather and great-grandfather were all named John, and were prominent among the honest yeomanry of Wexford county. John Mooney, the father, was born on the same farm as the subject of this sketch, and there assisted his father in carrying on the old farm. He married Eliza Ellison, a Scotch lady, and they became the parents of three sons and five daughters, John, our subject, being third in order of birth. Of the family there are two sons and three daughters yet living. The grandfather of our subject died at the age of one hundred and seven years, while his father died at the age of ninety-five years.

John Mooney grew to manhood in his native land, and there received a fair common-school education. He came to the United States in 1859, taking passage on an old sailing vessel, and was six weeks in crossing the Atlantic, encountering some severe weather while on the way. The ship was badly damaged, and this was its last voyage before being condemned. After landing in New York Mr. Mooney came direct to Illinois, locating first in DeWitt county, where he went to work as a farm hand for William Quinlan, working by the month, for which he received twelve dollars per month. He remained with Mr. Quinlan for seven years, at the end of which time he came into McLean county and purchased the place where he now resides, a tract of one hundred acres. On the place was an old farm house, into which he moved, and in which he lived for several years, while he further improved the place. He put out an orchard, together with shade and ornamental trees, fenced and tiled the land, and later bought an additional eighty acres adjoining. More recently he purchased thirty-one acres of timber land, giving him two hundred and eleven acres. Within a few years he has erected a good and substantial dwelling house, built good barns and other outbuildings, and put the farm in excellent shape. On the place he has a well of never-failing water, and all the surroundings of the farm show the taste and skill of the owner, and show him to be one of the best farmers in the township. He commenced life in this country without a dollar, and by his own labor, industry and enterprise succeeded in securing a large and valuable farm, and has made an honored name in the land of his adoption.

Mr. Mooney has been twice married,



first in 1867, to Miss Anna Maria Daneher, a native of Ireland. She died in 1885, after which he made a trip to his native land, visiting his parents, brothers, sisters and friends in the old home. He was gone six months, during which time he visited some of the most important cities in Great Britain. Returning home, on the 7th of December, 1887, he was united in marriage with Miss Cornelia Minton, who was born and reared in Claybourne county, Tennessee, and daughter of Philip Minton, who was born in Washington county, Virginia, and who went to Tennessee when a young man, and was there married to Mrs. Rachel Hodges, *née* Huddleston, a widow lady. They became the parents of five children, Mrs. Mooney being the only daughter. She came to Illinois with her brother, and here gave her hand in marriage to Mr. Mooney. To Mr. and Mrs. Mooney four children have been born, of whom only the youngest, Esther Margaret, is now living. Two sons died in infancy, and one daughter, Ellisee, at the age of seven years.

On coming to this country Mr. Mooney identified himself with the Republican party, and has since supported its men and measures in all national elections. In local elections, he usually votes for the man he regards as best qualified to fill the office for which he is running. He never wanted or sought office for himself, but was elected and served as road commissioner two years, and also served two terms as a member of the school board. Mrs. Mooney is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Heyworth, and while Mr. Mooney is not a member of any church organization, he attends church with his wife and assists in its support. He was, however, reared in the Episcopal faith.

Mr. Mooney has been a resident of Illinois for forty years, and of McLean county for thirty-one years, during which time he has made a most valuable citizen, and is well known in Bloomington, the south part of McLean, and the north part of DeWitt counties. He is a man of most exemplary habits, very domestic in his tastes, a great lover of home and family. His estimable wife is a true helpmeet to him, a believer in her husband's many excellent qualities, and they live and work harmoniously together. They are held in high esteem, and their many friends will be pleased to read this short history of their lives.

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ALBERT K. WHITE, who is now successfully engaged in the real estate and money loaning business in Bloomington, was born in Harrison county, Ohio, November 23, 1848. His father, David White, was born in Harrison county, Ohio, March 10, 1826, of Pennsylvania Dutch ancestry, and in early life began farming in Ohio, where he was married, December 24, 1847, to Miss Nancy Wright. They made their home upon a farm in the Buckeye state until the fall of 1854, when they came to Bloomington and the following year located upon a farm in Old Town township, McLean county. They are now living in Heyworth and are leading members of the Methodist Episcopal church, of that place, with which the father is officially connected. Throughout his active business life he has engaged in agricultural pursuits with the exception of one year, and has met with most excellent success, winning a comfortable competence as well as the high regard of the entire community in which he lives.



Albert K. White was educated in the schools near his boyhood home, pursuing his studies for some time after coming to McLean county, in the log building known as the Campbell school. He remained upon the home farm with his father until he attained his majority and then started out in life for himself as a farm hand. Later he engaged in farming on his own account in Empire township. During this time he was married, March 4, 1879, to Miss Sarah E. Heffling, a daughter of Lindley Heffling, of that township, and they now have two sons, Francis M. and Luther Earle.

Prior to 1865, Mr. White carried on operations in Old Town township, and then removed to Empire township, where he continued to make his home for three years after his marriage. The following three years were passed in DeWitt county, after which he returned to McLean county, and engaged in farming near Heyworth until coming to Bloomington early in the year 1894. He operated rented land and was quite extensively engaged in agricultural pursuits until closing out his farming interests in 1893. During his residence in the city he has engaged in the real estate business, handling a good deal of property, mostly for other parties, and has made a specialty of placing farm and city loans, which has grown to be an important branch of his business. He is also agent for several insurance companies. Although he came to Bloomington without any knowledge of the business methods in vogue, he has met with most excellent success, and has won an enviable reputation for fair and honorable dealing. Mr. White lived in Bloomington for two years, but three years ago bought and repaired the comfortable home he now occupies in Normal. Both he and his wife

are members of Grace Methodist Episcopal church and are held in high regard by all who know them.

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FREDERICK ECKHARDT, whose name at once suggests the music trade, has a reputation which extends throughout the country, and he to-day ranks among the prominent business men of Bloomington. Germany has furnished to the new world not only needed workmen, skilled and unskilled, but enterprising merchants, manufacturers, artists and apt dealers upon our marts of trade. Among the manufacturers no one occupies a more conspicuous position than our subject, the well-known manufacturer of the F. Eckhardt pianos.

Mr. Eckhardt was born in Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, October 1, 1843, a son of William Eckhardt, who was a highly educated man and a teacher, and also a well-known musician, his special instruments being the violin and piano, on which he gave lessons. He died in Hesse-Darmstadt at the age of fifty years when our subject was only four years old. In the family have been many talented musicians, including Charles Eckhardt, our subject's cousin, who was a professor of music, first in Brazil and later in Roanoke, Virginia, and Lincoln, Illinois.

Our subject was educated in public and private schools of his native land, and early in life manifested a taste for music. After leaving school, he served a three years' apprenticeship in furniture manufacturing, having to pay for the privilege. Later he spent two years with a well-known piano manufacturer of Hamburg, and in the meantime also gained a theoretical knowledge of music. He worked as a journey-

man in the old country until 1867, when he came to the United States and first located in New York city, where he worked at his trade for a time. Subsequently he was similarly employed in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, until 1870, when he went to Racine and embarked in the manufacture of pianos on his own account, making first the square and grand pianos which bore the name of F. Eckhardt and which soon became widely known, being sold all over the United States from San Francisco to New York. He has ever manufactured an instrument of fine tone and volume, is perfectly finished and sells at a medium rate. In 1875 he began the manufacture of upright pianos, which he has made almost exclusively since 1880. He started in business in a small way, but as his rapidly increased, he enlarged his facilities and erected a large brick building in Racine, which he still owns. In 1896 he removed his machinery and plant to Bloomington and built a good two-story brick factory with separate engine house, on Empire street and the Illinois Central tracks, where he has good railroad facilities. He has ever given his personal attention to every detail of the business, and is now at the head of a large and profitable trade and furnishes employment to a large number of men. His factory has a capacity of two or three hundred pianos a year, but he is not yet working the full force.

On the 14th of October, 1895, Mr. Eckhardt married Miss Josephine Zuercher, of Chicago, of which city she is a native. Her father, Joseph Zuercher, is of Swiss birth, and has lived retired from active business since 1872, his home being now in Bloomington. Mrs. Eckhardt was educated in the schools of Chicago, and was given special

instruction in music. In 1872 she went to Stuttgart, Germany, to continue her musical studies, both vocal and instrumental, and remained there a year and a half. On her return to the United States she successfully engaged in teaching music in Milwaukee, Zanesville and Kenosha, Wisconsin, and also Bloomington, Illinois, until 1889, when she again went to Stuttgart, where she studied under Schwab, the musical leader of the Royal Theatre. She then returned to her parents' home in Bloomington and resumed teaching. She is a most talented musician, and for a time was connected with musical companies giving concerts. As a musician Mr. Eckhardt first met her at a concert in Kenosha, Wisconsin, twenty years before their marriage. They have a beautiful home at No. 1104 North Garrison street, where she has lived for several years, and which is now brightened by the presence of a little son, Frederick Joseph. Socially, Mr. Eckhardt is a member of the Turners. His life is a worthy illustration of what can be accomplished by the exercise of industry, perseverance and good management, for he started out in life for himself empty-handed and is now one of the well-to-do and prosperous citizens of his adopted city, as well as one of its most highly respected business men.

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SAMUEL F. BARNUM, a well-known and prominent citizen of Empire township, whose home is on section 16, is a native of New York, his birth occurring in St. Lawrence county, August 11, 1824. His ancestors on the paternal side were originally from Scotland and on crossing the Atlantic at an early day in the history of this country took up their residence in New

England. Samuel B. Barnum, the father of our subject, was born in Vermont, and when a young man went to St. Lawrence county, New York, where he married Miss Rhoda M. Farwell, who was of Welsh descent. He was a carder and fuller by trade and engaged in the manufacture of cloth at Canton, St. Lawrence county, for many years and was one of the most prominent business men of that place. Later he made his home in Erie county, New York, for some years, and from there removed to Defiance, Ohio, about 1846. He engaged in business there until called from this life at the age of sixty-seven years. His wife, who survived him several years, passed away at the age of seventy-six.

In Erie county, New York, Samuel F. Barnum, of this sketch, grew to manhood, but his early educational advantages were limited and he is almost wholly self-educated by reading and observation in subsequent years. In 1844, at the age of twenty years, he was married in that county to Miss Clarinda Bunting, who was born there. They began their domestic life upon a small farm which he owned in Erie county, and in connection with its operation he also engaged in general merchandising. In 1855 he came to McLean county, Illinois, and settled upon land in Empire township which his father had previously purchased and which he at once commenced to break and fence. The first year being very dry, he raised no crop and in the fall returned to New York, where he continued to engage in mercantile business until 1863, when he again came to McLean county. This time he accepted a position as bookkeeper with the lumber firm of Bruner & Whitmer, of Bloomington, but was promoted at the end of a year and his salary to eighteen hundred

dollars annually. He remained with the firm five years, and in 1870 formed a business partnership with Mr. Bruner and came to Le Roy, where he opened a lumber yard and engaged in the lumber, grain and coal business. In 1872 Mr. Keenan purchased an interest and the firm was known as Bruner, Barnum & Keenan. Later Mr. Bruner sold out and the business was successfully carried on in Le Roy under the firm name of Barnum & Keenan until 1889, when Mr. Barnum sold out and purchased a farm adjoining the village, on which he located in 1893, and to the further improvement and cultivation of which he has since devoted his energies with marked success. To the original purchase of one hundred and sixty acres he has added until he now has three hundred and nineteen acres, which he has placed under excellent cultivation, and has erected thereon two good residences, barns and other outbuildings, making it one of the most valuable and desirable farms of Empire township.

Mr. Barnum's first wife died in Erie county, New York, in 1861. Three children were born of that union, namely: Matilda M. is now the wife of C. D. Waters, of Le Roy. Henry I. married and settled in Le Roy, where he engaged in business until his death in 1889, leaving two children. Henry Clay died in 1856, at the age of four years. Mr. Barnum was again married at Bloomington, in 1865, his second union being with Miss Eliza Patterson, a native of McLean county and a daughter of Hiram Patterson, who came to McLean county from southern Illinois in March, 1837. He was born in 1805 in North Carolina. He was a wheelwright and cabinet-maker by trade. He died in 1844. During his residence here he took quite an in-



terest in church affairs. By this marriage there are two sons: Percy D., who is engaged in farming upon the home place, married Rettie C. Croskey, and has one son, Edwin; and George P. is a business man of Santa Rosa, California.

Originally, Mr. Barnum was a Whig in politics and cast his first presidential vote for Zachary Taylor in 1848. Since then he has supported each presidential candidate of the Whig and Republican parties, with the exception of those of 1860, when he voted for Stephen A. Douglas, the little giant. He has been a prominent factor in local politics, and as one of the most popular and influential citizens of his community, he has been called upon to serve his fellow-citizens in several important offices. For four years he was mayor of Le Roy, and has been a member of the county board of supervisors. While in the latter office he served as chairman of the judiciary committee one year, and as a member of several other important ones. He has been a delegate to county, congressional and state conventions of his party, and in whatever position he has been called upon to fill he has made a most faithful and efficient officer. He was one of the first stockholders and first members of the Building and Loan Association of Le Roy, and served as its president for twenty-four consecutive years. Industry, energy and economy are among his chief characteristics, and have brought a merited success to his efforts. Fraternally, he is a Master Mason, and in both social and business circles he stands deservedly high.

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JONATHAN SPENCER, who resides on what is known as the Evergreen farm, in Dawson township, is one of the early set-

tlers of McLean county, and one who has been a pioneer in two states. He was born in Tioga county, Pennsylvania, December 27, 1814, and is the son of Jonathan Lee and Levina (Raxford) Spencer, both of whom were natives of the Keystone state. The grandfather of our subject had one daughter and twenty-one sons, and at the time of the Revolutionary war sixteen of them were able to carry muskets.

The subject of this sketch was eleven years old when he left his Pennsylvania home, going to Hawkins county, Ohio, where he grew to manhood, and at McArthurstown was united in marriage with Miss Polly Ann Watkins, a native of Athens county, Ohio, and daughter of William and Hannah Watkins, both of whom were natives of Virginia. Soon after marriage, at the age of twenty-three years, he came to Illinois and located first in Vermilion county, where he remained thirteen years, and then came to McLean county and settled in Old Town township, where he bought a farm of one hundred and thirty-five acres, for which he gave the sum of eight hundred dollars. Seven years later he sold it for two thousand and sixty dollars. He then bought his present farm of eighty acres in Dawson township, which has since continued to be his home.

To Mr. and Mrs. Spencer eleven children were born. James died at the age of six months. Catherine married Marcus Wyman, of Vermilion county, Illinois, and dying left two children, Mary and William. Louisa married Elijah Gayno, and they reside on a farm near Sioux City, Iowa. Leander and William are living near Kingfisher, Oklahoma. Newman resides in Dawson township. Stephen moved to Nebraska and died leaving a family of four children. John



residing with his father. Mary married Lafayette Thomas and died at Fort Scott, Kansas, leaving five children. Frank is engaged in farming in Dawson township. The others died in early childhood. The mother died in August, 1881, and her remains were interred in the cemetery at Le Roy. She was a true Christian woman, a member of the United Brethren church.

On Thanksgiving day, 1884, Mr. Spencer was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Anna Kilbourne, widow of Lemuel Kilbourne, by whom she had three children, Orson, Mary and Earl. She was born and reared in New York, but her marriage to our subject took place in Nebraska. In her younger days Mrs. Spencer was a teacher in the public schools. She is an intelligent and refined woman and has made many friends since her residence in McLean county.

For many years Mr. Spencer was a member of the United Brethren church, but he is now identified with the Protestant Methodists, with which body his wife is also a member. He has never been connected with any lodge or fraternal society, believing that the church of Christ is sufficient for all purposes. On national issues he has always been a Democrat, but in local matters he is independent, voting for the man best fitted for the office to which he aspires. He has been called on to fill several positions of honor and trust, having served as justice of the peace, supervisor, school director and road commissioner, discharging the duties of each office to the best of his ability and to the satisfaction of his constituents. For sixty-two years he has been a resident of Illinois, and the greater part of that time as a citizen of McLean county. When he came the country was new, but

with others of the heroic pioneer band he went to work and to-day the results are shown in the well-cultivated fields, the fine and substantial farm houses, excellent church buildings and school houses, and in the neat and attractive villages and cities. To such men as Johnathan Spencer this is all due and they should be honored for it all.

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LOREF H. DEPEW, a wide-awake and energetic business man of Bloomington, was born in that city, November 10, 1856, a son of Joel and Sally (Enlow) Depew. The father was born and reared in Virginia, and in early life removed with his parents to Indiana, where they died. Subsequently he came to Bloomington, about 1840, and embarked in business as a cabinet maker. He erected quite a large factory which he successfully conducted until it was destroyed by fire. As one of the prominent and influential citizens of Bloomington and a recognized leader in the Republican party here, he was honored with several important official positions, serving as mayor of the city the last year of the war, and as alderman for some years. His last years were spent in retirement and he passed away in 1872. The Depew family is of French origin, and so far as known, all of the name in the United States spring from two brothers who came to America about the time of the Revolutionary war. Chauncey Depew, the great New York statesman, traces his ancestry back to the same two brothers. It was in Bloomington that the father of our subject, was married to Miss Sally Enlow, a native of Kentucky and a daughter of John and Katherine Enlow, with whom she came to this county. She died February 12, 1899.

She was the mother of five children, Loren H., our subject, and Ora, now deceased, and three who died in infancy.

Loren H. Depew was educated in private schools of Bloomington, and at the age of thirteen commenced learning the baker's trade, at which he served a two years' apprenticeship, but not liking the business he abandoned it and learned the cleaner's and dyer's trade, which he followed until attaining his majority. He was then employed as a clerk in the merchant tailoring establishments of E. C. Hyde & Son and H. W. Leach for twenty years, proving a most successful salesman and numbering among his customers many of the leading citizens of Bloomington. The following three years he was proprietor of a restaurant and in that venture met with most excellent success. At the end of that time he again turned his attention to the cleaning and dying business and for a number of years conducted an establishment of his own in the old post office block until it was reinodeled. For the past two years he has carried on business at Nos. 104 and 106 South Main street, where he has a large steam plant for dying and is able to conduct his business by the latest and most approved methods. He is the best equipped and leading business man in his line in the city. He has also built up a large trade as a costumer, furnishing everything necessary for ball parties, private theatricals, etc. Being naturally artistic in his tastes, he has designed many beautiful costumes, and is therefore well qualified for this branch of his business.

Mr. Depew married Miss Tillie E. Austen, of Bloomington, who was born in Denmark, but during early childhood was brought to America by her father, Lewis Austen. One child graces this union, Cora

M. With his wife, Mr. Depew attends and supports the First Presbyterian church, of which she is a member. Socially, he belongs to Pythias Lodge, No. 161, K. P., of which he has been master at work for eight years, and is also sergeant-major of the First Battalion of Fourth Regiment of Uniformed Rank of Knights of Pythias, which he has accompanied to several state encampments and six national encampments, including one at Washington, D. C. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. In the spring of 1876 he joined Company F, Tenth Battallion, Illinois National Guards, and ten years later enlisted in Company G, Fourth Regiment, Illinois National Guards, with which regiment he was twice called into active service, once during the famous riot at Lemont, where he remained for a number of weeks. After his last enlistment he served for five years. He is an ardent supporter of the Republican party, and in 1884 organized the Blaine and Logan drill team, which took an active part in the campaign in central Illinois. As a business man and citizen, he justly merits the high regard in which he is held, and his genial, pleasant manner has made him a host of warm personal friends.

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JOHN B. LENNEY has demonstrated the true meaning of the word success as the full accomplishment of an honorable purpose. Energy, close application, perseverance and good management—these are the elements which have entered into his business career and crowned his efforts with prosperity. His birth occurred in 1819, in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, and he is the only surviving of the three children

of William and Sarah B. Lenney, who died in their native state, Pennsylvania. John was reared and educated in Cumberland county, where he worked on a farm, and as he grew older he learned cabinet-making, which he pursued until 1856, when he came west, locating in Chenoa, and built the first frame dwelling house. Chenoa at that time presented a vastly different appearance than at the present day. The only houses in sight, two in number, constituted the town, and the neighborhood abounded in game of all kinds. Mr. Lenney has counted as many as forty-two deer within half a mile of his house. His first enterprise upon reaching Chenoa was to engage in the grocery business, which he conducted for two years, then taking into partnership G. B. Beddinger, and enlarging the stock and adding dry-goods, etc. They conducted business under the firm name of Beddinger & Lenney for four years, when Mr. Lenney received the appointment as the first postmaster of Chenoa, serving in that capacity for twelve years. He was also appointed express agent at Chenoa for the United States Express Company, which position he held for the same length of time. In 1870 he was commissioned justice of the peace, an office which he holds at the present writing.

In January, 1848, Mr. Lenney was married to Miss Sarah A. Bush, who was born in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania. Nine children have been born to them, six of whom are living: William B., a farmer; John W., a druggist; Blair, a painter; Lyslie K., a clerk; Edward, also a farmer; and Mary E. Politically, our subject is a Republican, and fraternally a Mason, who has been raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in Chenoa. He is now living a retired life, free from business cares and responsibilities, and

takes great pleasure in the society of his family and friends. He is always courteous, kindly and affable, and those who know him personally have for him a warm regard. A man of much natural ability, his success in business from the beginning of his residence in Chenoa, was uniform and rapid. As has been truly remarked, after all that may be done for a man in the way of giving him opportunities for obtaining the requirements which are sought in the schools and in books, he must essentially formulate, determine and give shape to his own character; and this is what Mr. Lenney has done. He has persevered in the pursuit of persistent purpose and gained the most satisfactory reward. His life is exemplary in all respects, and he has ever supported those interests which are calculated to benefit and uplift humanity, while his own high moral worth is deserving the highest commendation.

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BYRON GREGORY, who is now serving as supervisor of Money Creek township, is an extensive farmer and stock raiser, and a native of McLean county. He was born on the old family homestead in Gridley township, December 14, 1868, and is the son of John and Mary (Henline) Gregory, who were early settlers of the county, the father being well known as one of the largest land owners here, having at the time he retired from active business over three thousand acres of land. (See sketch of John Gregory on another page of this work.)

The subject of this sketch was one of seven children, and was but two years old when his parents moved to Normal, and in the schools of that city he received a liberal education. Arriving at man's estate, and



choosing as his calling the life of a farmer, he returned to Gridley township and set to work with a will as a farmer and stock-raiser. He continued to be thus engaged until 1895, when he returned to Normal, and in partnership with his brother-in-law, F. W. Liggitt, engaged in the mercantile business under the firm name of Liggitt & Gregory. Two years experience as a merchant was all that he then desired, and he then withdrew, exchanging his interest in the store for his present farm in Money Creek township, which comprises four hundred and thirty acres in sections 17 and 18, the farm long being known as the Trimmer farm. He is giving his attention to general farming and stock-raising, being an extensive feeder, and shipping on an average five car loads of stock per year.

Mr. Gregory was married December 24, 1889, to Miss Hattie Britt, who was born in Tazewell county, and daughter of William and Sarah (Burt) Britt, who were early settlers of Tazewell county, and the parents of four children: Pauline, wife of Dr. Doff Dillon, of Normal; Emma, wife of Joseph Richmond, of Tazewell county, Illinois; John C., a business man of Farmington, Illinois; and Hattie, wife of our subject. To Mr. and Mrs. Gregory three children have been born—Omer B., Marie and Florence.

In politics Mr. Gregory is a Democrat, with which party he has been identified since attaining his majority. In the spring of 1899 he was elected on that ticket to represent his township as a member of the board of supervisors of McLean county, and this in a township that usually gives a large Republican majority, which fact attests his popularity. Fraternally he is a member of El Paso Lodge, No. 246, A. F. & A.

M., and of Bloomington Chapter, No. 26, R. A. M. Religiously he is identified with the Christians, holding membership in the Christian church at Gridley. While yet a young man, he has been quite successful in his chosen calling, and is a thoroughly enterprising and progressive citizen, alive to all the best interests of his native county and state.

ANDREW M. DUFF, a prominent young real-estate dealer of Bloomington, was born in Lincoln, Illinois, May 1, 1873, a son of Andrew M. and Belle F. (Johnson) Duff, both natives of Kentucky. The father was one of the very early settlers of Logan county, Illinois, where he took up a tract of new land and successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising. He was an ardent Republican in political sentiment, but never an aspirant for office. He died December 21, 1881, honored and respected by all who knew him. The wife and mother, who is now living in the city of Lincoln, came to this state with her parents at an early day and located west of Bloomington, where they both died. She is a consistent member of the Cumberland Presbyterian church and a most estimable lady. She is the mother of ten children, of whom nine reached years of maturity, and of these our subject is the seventh in order of birth.

During his boyhood and youth, Andrew M. Duff, our subject, pursued his studies in the public schools, and later in Brown's Business College. Going to Lincoln, Illinois, he worked in the abstract office of H. W. Dana, and during the few years spent there obtained an excellent knowledge of titles and the real-estate business. Later he engaged in the real-estate and loan business



on his own account at Hastings, Nebraska, but gave more attention to the latter. He located there in 1894 and did quite a profitable business, but concluded to return to his native state and this time located in Champaign, where he was employed by the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company as their emigration agent, traveling and selling their western lands. At the end of a year, he came to Bloomington, and on the 1st of January, 1898, opened an office in the Gresheim building and has since successfully engaged in the real-estate business. He sells on commission for others, and also buys and sells property for his own benefit. He has often dealt two or three times with the same parties and his straightforward, honorable business methods gain for him the confidence and respect of all with whom he comes in contact.

Mr. Duff was united in marriage, on the 4th of June, 1894, with Miss Jessie S. Kent, a daughter of Arthur W. Kent, who was born in London, England, but during childhood emigrated to Canada, and in 1883 removed to Logan county, Illinois.

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**W**ILLIAM MADDUX, SR., was for many years actively identified with the business interests of Bloomington, but is now practically living retired, and expects to spend his remaining years in ease and quiet, enjoying the rest which should always follow a long and useful career. He was born in Flemingsburg, Fleming county, Kentucky, July 23, 1832, a son of Edward Dorsey and Elizabeth (Deering) Maddux, and grandson of George B. and Judith (Neal) Maddux. The grandfather was a native of Virginia and when a young man moved to Fleming county, Kentucky, where he purchased land and

continued to make his home throughout life. He was a grand old man who was quite prominent in his community, and in religious belief was a strict Methodist. He with his team, was drafted during the war of 1812, but he hired a substitute to take the team and haul provisions for the army throughout the remainder of that struggle. He was three times married and by the first union had ten children, the second nine, and the third two. The father of our subject was by the first marriage. The grandfather died, and was laid to rest in the burying ground upon his farm. He was an earnest Christain man and his home was always the stopping place for ministers.

Edward Dorsey Maddux, the father of subject, was born in 1805, not far from the birthplace of our subject, and there he grew to manhood. He was a teamster by occupation and did quite and extensive business, traveling with a six-horse team all over the country as far as Lexington, Frankfort and Maysville. Later he purchased a farm about five miles from Flemingsburg, upon which our subject was born. He married Miss Elizabeth Deering, also a native of Fleming county, Kentucky, and a daughter of William and Anna (Rogers) Deering, natives of Fauquier county, Virginia, who at an early day located in Fleming county, Kentuck, where Mr. Deering owned and operated a farm until his death. His widow subsequently married a Mr. Cunningham, by whom she had one child, and she passed away at the age of eighty-five years. When our subject was about eleven years of age, his father sold his farm and removed to Flemingsburg, where he engaged in teaming for some years. The mother died near that place October 9, 1853, and the father spent the last twenty years of his life at the home

of our subject, where he departed this life June 18, 1891. Both were earnest and consistent members of the Christain church, attending services at what was called the brick Union church, in Fleming county. To them were born five children, of whom three reached the years of maturity, namely: William, our subject; Ann, wife of Dunbar White, of Bloomington; and George R. All now live on Buchanan street, Bloomington.

The subject of this sketch began his education in the country schools near his childhood home and later attended the Lane Seminary at Flemingsburg until fifteen years of age, when he commenced earning his own livelihood by working by the month, and was thus employed until his marriage. On the 21st of July, 1853, Mr. Maddux was united in marriage with Miss Mary Ann Summers, who was then living five miles east of Flemingsburg, but was born near Mays Lick, Mason county, Kentucky, February 27, 1831. Her parents, Elijah and Elizabeth (Batman) Summers, were also natives of the same place, and were representatives of two of the oldest families of that section. Soon after the birth of Mrs. Maddux they moved to Fleming county, where the father engaged in farming until April, 1858, when he disposed of his property there and came to Bloomington, Illinois. He did not long enjoy his new home, however, as he died on the 9th of the following October, at the age of sixty-two years. The mother continued her residence here until after the civil war, when she went to live with a son in Kansas, but afterward, at the age of eighty years, visited her daughter in Bloomington. She died in Kansas January 21, 1894, at the age of ninety-three years. Both she and her husband were faithful members of the Methodist

Episcopal church. Her father, Owen Batman, was a native of Wales, and a pioneer of Mason county, Kentucky, where in the midst of the forest he hewed out a home. Later he went to Ohio and located near Xenia, where his death occurred. William Summers, Mrs. Maddux's paternal grandfather, was also born in Virginia and was one of the earliest settlers of Mason county, Kentucky. While building his log cabin he had to leave his family at Fort Washington for protection against the Indians, and there the wife sickened and died, leaving him with the care of five little boys. He took them into the woods, where he made for them a home. Later he married Patience Havens, who was the grandmother of Mrs. Maddux, and after her death he was again married. He was the progenitor of the Summers family in Kentucky, and his descendants are now quite numerous in that state. He was an upright, honorable man, who met with success in life, and his sons were all quite well-to-do. To Mr. and Mrs. Maddux were born nine children, but only three now survive. Walter, the youngest, died at the age of eight years. The living are as follows: Ella is the wife of Julius H. Reichel, who lives in a house adjoining that of our subject in Bloomington, and they have one son, Arthur Harvey; Millard Lincoln, a member of the police force, married Edith Wolfe and has one child, Etta B.; and William Edward, who was for some time engaged in milling, but now follows the printer's trade, married Zua White, and has two children, James D. and Herman Lincoln.

On the 30th of November, 1854, Mr. and Mrs. Maddux took up their residence in Bloomington, having come here from their old home in Kentucky by way of the

river from Maysville, Kentucky, to Cincinnati, Ohio, and from there by rail to Indianapolis, Indiana, and by the railroad to Michigan City, Chicago, and to Bloomington on the Chicago & Alton, which then ended at this place. Here he sought employment, and the first work he found was cutting ice at one dollar and twenty-five cents per day and it proved a very cold job for a southerner. He had just six and one-fourth cents on his arrival at Bloomington. He had previously made arrangements to take a farm in this county, but on their arrival the other parties backed out and they were left without a place. As they had been used to plenty it was at first hard to get along on the small salary he could earn by working at odd jobs. They went to the Ritter House, now the Butler House, where he paid seven dollars a week for board, at the same time only earning seven dollars and a half. For ten years Mr. Maddux was employed as a driver of a flour wagon and in that way became somewhat familiar with the milling business, which he later successfully followed. In 1878, with William Cox, he purchased a grocery stock, and engaged in business in the Hill building on South East street. Having already become extensively acquainted throughout the city, he did a large and profitable business during the following two years. Selling his interest in that store, he bought a half interest in the grocery of George Woy, and under the firm name of Woy & Maddux business was carried on for a time, but our subject finally sold out to his partner. He then started in business on Front, near East street, as a member of the firm of Maddux & Elledge, and when his partner sold his interest to Walker Bulwer the name was changed to Maddux & Bulwer. Later

they moved to the corner of Front and Prairie streets and admitted W. I. Merwin into the firm, the name being then changed to Maddux, Merwin & Bulwer. They occupied a new building and did a large and profitable business. Subsequently, George B. Miller bought the half interest owned by Merwin and Bulwer and the firm became Maddux & Miller. They bought a stock of goods at 807 Grove street and carried on both stores until the partnership was dissolved, Mr. Miller taking the store on Grove street and our subject the one down town on Front street, at the corner of Prairie. This he carried on alone until he closed out the business and built a gristmill on South Center street, which was first run by steam and later by electricity. He secured a large custom trade and did a good business until January, 1898, when on account of his health he sold out and has since lived retired.

On first coming to Bloomington, Mr. Maddux lived in rented property, but later owned a home on the corner of Front and Clinton streets, and after that at No. 607 Jackson street. He then bought five lots on Buchanan street, which at that time was all wood and pasture land on the hill, and erected thereon his present comfortable residence at No. 710, where he has made his home since 1871. He also owns other real estate in different parts of the city. He has been a prominent member of Remembrance Lodge, I. O. O. F., for over twenty years and is past grand of the same, and for many years he and his wife have attended and supported the Christian church. Politically, his father was first a Whig and later a Republican, and our subject has always been a staunch supporter of the latter party. In 1876 he was elected alderman



for the fourth ward and so acceptably did he fill the office that he was called upon to serve in that position for four years, during which time the new city hall was located and built and the water works finished. He is a public-spirited, enterprising citizen who has the best interest of the city and county at heart and has done all in his power to promote the public welfare along various lines.

**I**SAAC DARST, a prominent and wealthy citizen of Bloomington, now retired from active business cares, is one of the men who make old age seem the better portion of life. Youth has its charms, but an honorable and honored old age, to which the lengthening years had added dignity and sweetness, has a brighter radiance, as if some ray from the life beyond already rested upon it.

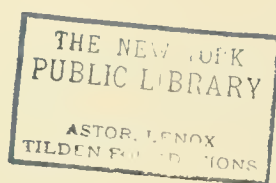
Mr. Darst was born in Miami county, Ohio, April 25, 1822, a son of Isaac and Jane (Morgan) Darst, who were natives of Virginia and Tennessee, respectively, and pioneers of Ohio, where their marriage was celebrated. In Miami township, Miami county, the father cleared and improved one hundred and sixty acres of land and continued to engage in its cultivation until called from this life at the age of forty-five years. He was a thoroughly good and great man, was one of the early Dunkard preachers in his section and helped to found the church there. He had four brothers, Jacob, Isaac, John and Abram, who also settled in Miami county and Isaac and John were prominent members of the same church, while Jacob belonged to the Christian church and Abram was a member of the Presbyterian church. Our subject

was only nine years old when his father died, leaving the mother with the care of nine children, whom she carefully reared. She kept them together and spun and made their clothes until all were grown. She continued to reside upon the old home farm in Ohio for many years, but finally sold that place and came to Bloomington, Illinois, where she died in 1873. Her father, Charles Morgan, made his home in Tennessee in early life. He was a soldier of the Revolutionary war, and his wife was near enough to the scene of action to hear the cannon during the battle of Bunker Hill.

Mr. Darst, whose name introduces this sketch, was reared in his native state and during his boyhood pursued his studies in a log school-house from twelve to sixteen weeks in the winter. He spent some time with his uncle, Merle Morgan, who taught him the blacksmith's trade, at which he worked until after his marriage. On the 1st of April, 1845, he wedded Miss Matilda Decker, a daughter of Jacob and Mary (Meyer) Decker. The father was born in Pennsylvania, but when a small child removed to Athens county, Ohio, with his father, Brewer Decker, who was of old Pennsylvania stock. He bought land in Athens county, where they continued to make their home throughout the remainder of their lives. There Mrs. Darst's father grew to manhood and followed farming as a life work, owning and operating a farm of one hundred acres in Athens county. He died there and his wife, who was a native of Columbus, Ohio, passed away in 1826, when Mrs. Darst was only nine years old. Both were faithful members of the Baptist church.

In 1847, Mr. and Mrs. Darst came to Illinois in a big old Pennsylvania wagon







ISAAC DARST.



MRS. ISAAC DARST.

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drawn by three horses, and would camp out at night along the way. During the entire journey the wife was ill and would lie awake nights and cry. Mr. Darst offered to turn back, but she would not consent. Finally they reached Pulaski, Logan county, Illinois, where he opened a blacksmith shop, beginning business there on a capital of fifty dollars, but they had brought enough provisions with them to last for some time, and he traded his gun for a cow. In the fall of 1850 they came to McLean county and he bought eighty acres of school land in Dale township, which after paying for he sold at fifty dollars per acre during the war. He then bought eighty acres in Dry Grove township, which he improved and finally sold to Colonel Gridley. His next purchase was the Squire Pease farm of one hundred and nine acres in Dale township, on which he erected a good residence, put in many rods of tiling, and made many other improvements until it was in first class condition. Selling that place for over nine thousand dollars, he bought what was known as the Valentine farm, formerly owned by Daniel Kent. It comprises seventy-four acres on the railroad at Spring Grove station, which he improved by the erection of a house, and finally sold at a profit. During all these years he successfully engaged in general farming, but since 1894 has lived retired in Bloomington, having purchased a home at No. 1406 North East street. He has made other investments in the city, and in all his undertakings has met with well deserved success.

Politically Mr. Darst was originally a Whig, and now gives his support to the Republican party. While living in the county he served as road commissioner and school director, but has never cared for

official honors. He and his estimable wife are sincere and faithful members of the Christian church and their lives have ever been in harmony with their professions. Mr. Darst was the first to encourage the Deaconess Hospital, and it was his money that bought the ground on which the building now stands, and which will eventually revert to the hospital. It is worth five thousand dollars. His life has been manly, his actions sincere, his manner unaffected and his example is well worthy of emulation by the young. He has ever supported those interests which are calculated to uplift and benefit humanity, while his own high moral worth is deserving of the highest commendation.

MILTON HENLINE, who is the owner of a fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres, and which comprises the east half of section 1, Towanda township, is a native of McLean county and comes of a well-known pioneer family, whose history is prominently identified with that of the county. He was born in Lexington township, February 13, 1843, and is the son of James J. and Sarah (Smith) Henline, the father being a native of Boone county, Kentucky, where he was born in 1815. He came to McLean county in 1828, a lad of thirteen years, in company with his parents, John and Polly (Darnell) Henline, who located in Lawndale township, which was their home during the remainder of their lives, the mother dying February 12, 1883. In the family of John and Polly Henline were the following named children: China, who married William Burt, and removed with him to Tazewell county, where his death occurred; George, who lived and died

in McLean county; John, who removed to Kansas, where he died; Martin, who also removed to Kansas; William B., who remained in McLean county, and died in September, 1898; James J., the father of our subject, who is still living in Lawndale township; and David, who died in Lexington township.

Sarah (Smith) Henline, who is a sister of Shelton Smith, of Lexington, came to this county about 1834, and by her union with James J. Henline she became the mother of eleven children, nine of whom yet survive: Lucinda, wife of C. C. White-lock, of Manhattan, Kansas; Milton, the subject of this sketch; William R., a farmer of Seward, Kansas; Shelton, a farmer of Plumbwood, Ohio; Sarah, who died in childhood; Melissa, wife of Joseph A. Wiley, of Kearney, Nebraska; Addison, of Orleans, Nebraska; Ira F., of Kearney, Nebraska; Robert, who resides with his parents; and Etta, who died at the age of twelve years.

Upon the old homestead in Lexington township our subject grew to manhood, his boyhood and youth being spent much as that of other farmer boys. He attended the country schools and later entered Wesleyan University, where he completed his school life. On leaving the university he assisted his father in carrying on the home farm until 1866. At Bloomington, Illinois, March 22, 1866, he was united in marriage with Miss Irene R. Willhoite, daughter of Alexander I. and Sarah (Gossett) Willhoite. She was born in Owen county, Kentucky, October 30, 1845, her parents being likewise natives of the same state. The family came to McLean county when she was but five years of age, and here she grew to womanhood. She was the seventh in a family of twelve children,

as follows: Dr. William H., who died in Kansas in February, 1898; Mary J., wife of William Hemstreet, of Cass county, Missouri; Felicia, wife of W. H. Lane, of Cass county, Missouri; Samuel, of Paola, Kansas; Irene, wife of our subject; Caroline E., who died in infancy; Lucy B., widow of Belden Russell, of Paola, Kansas; Margaret, who died May 28, 1870, at the age of eighteen years; Lycurgus G., of Cass county, Missouri; Socrates, of Cass county, Missouri; Donna, wife of Asa McDaniel, of Pendleton, Oregon; and Eusebia, wife of James T. Glass, of Holden, Missouri. In 1868 Mr. Willhoite, with his family, started to Vernon county, Missouri. While *en-route* he contracted smallpox, and died before the family were located in their new home.

To Mr. and Mrs. Henline twelve children have been born: Carrie, born February 13, 1867; James I., September 20, 1868; Claude D., May 1, 1870; Alvin, May 27, 1872; Buell, February 15, 1874; Ellis, January 4, 1876; Ada E., January 8, 1878; Garfield, March 23, 1880; Alma, April 26, 1882; Mabel, June 10, 1884; Milton Cecil, February 26, 1887; Leslie R., January 5, 1890. Alvin, who is engaged in farming in Money Creek township, was married December 12, 1894, to Miss Alpha Zurkle, a native of Virginia, and daughter of David P. Zurkle, and they have three children: Russell, I. C. and Wendell Z.

In 1866 Mr. Henline made his first purchase of land, one hundred and sixty acres of his present farm, and in 1882 purchased the remainder of his half-section, which is as fine a body of land as there is in the county. He has followed an intelligent system of mixed farming and stock-raising, feeding continually on his place what grain

he raises. His place is well improved with commodious dwelling, good outbuildings, and all have been erected by himself. He is a thorough farmer and a well-informed man on the general issues of the day. After leaving school and before settling down on his farm, it may here be remarked that he engaged in teaching for a time, in which line he showed an aptitude that would in time have placed him in the front rank of teachers, if he had chosen to follow teaching as a profession.

In politics Mr. Henline has departed from the traditions of his fathers and has always supported the Republican party, casting his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1864. He has always taken a commendable interest in local affairs; especially in educational matters has he been active, having served for some twelve or fifteen years as school director or trustee. He has also filled the office of road commissioner, but has never cared to give his time to the cares of office, especially as he knows that there are many who do desire official distinction. He is an active and official member of the Christian church of Cooksville, and for some years has been an elder. His wife is also a member of that church. Socially, he is held in the highest esteem, being one of those liberal and enterprising citizens who have made a success in life, and by his genial disposition has made a host of friends.

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**AUGUSTUS G. WOLFE.** The story of the founders of this nation and of the Revolutionary forefathers is interesting, not only from a historical standpoint, but also as a source of inspiration and encouragement to others. Yet we need not look to

the past; the present furnishes many examples worthy of emulation in the men who have risen through their own efforts to positions of prominence and importance in professional, political and business circles. To this class belongs Augustus G. Wolfe, a well-known real estate dealer of Bloomington.

He was born in Dayton, Ohio, October 11, 1835, a son of Jacob and Theresa (Daugherty) Wolfe. The father was also a native of Ohio, but the paternal grandfather, John Wolfe, was born in Germany, and on his emigration to the United States located in Pennsylvania, whence he later removed to Dayton, Ohio, and there spent his last days. He was a farmer by occupation and a soldier of the war of 1812. The father of our subject moved to Carroll county, Indiana, in November, 1836, and settled at Delphi, on the banks of the Wabash river, where he took up a large tract of new land and transformed it into a well-improved and productive farm. He was one of the leading and influential citizens of that locality and was honored with a number of county offices, the duties of which he most capably discharged. He died in 1848, leaving his young wife with the care of seven children. She continued to reside upon the home farm until she, too, was called to her final rest in 1879. She was a faithful member of the Presbyterian church and a most estimable lady. At her death she left three children who are still living, namely: John F., a resident of Flora, Indiana; Augustus G., our subject; and Mrs. Sarah E. Dosch, of Frankfort, Indiana.

Augustus G. Wolfe was educated in the schools of Delphi, and his business training was obtained as a clerk in a store at that



place when he was a mere lad. After attaining his majority he spent two years in travel, and then returned to his native place, where he was married, May 10, 1859, to Miss Martha E. Davidson, a native of Xenia, Ohio, and a daughter of William and Eliza (Andrew) Davidson, the former a business man and stockdealer of that place. One child was born of this union, Edith F., now the wife of M. L. Maddux, who is on the police force of Bloomington, and by whom she has one child, Etta Brush.

After his marriage, Mr. Wolfe embarked in business on his own account at Delphi, where he conducted a general store and received a liberal patronage for many miles throughout the surrounding country. His place of business was destroyed by fire in 1870, but he promptly rebuilt and successfully carried on operations at that place until 1873. He served as postmaster of Pittsburg, Indiana, for seven or eight years to the entire satisfaction of all concerned. On disposing of his business in Delphi in 1873, he came to Bloomington, Illinois, and commenced buying and shipping stock, which proved a profitable business, and he became one of the most extensive dealers of the kind in the city. It was not long ere he had a large circle of friends and acquaintances throughout the county as his business made him widely known. In 1895 he discontinued stock dealing and has since engaged in the real estate business, handling principally Indiana lands, and in 1898 sold over four thousand acres in that state. He has also handled a large amount of city real estate, and in this as in his other business ventures, he has met with remarkable success. He is quite prominent in business circles as a man of the utmost reliability,

and the success that he has achieved in life is certain justly merited. Since the organization of the Republican party in 1856, he has never failed to cast his ballot for its presidential candidates, and has always taken a deep and commendable interest in public affairs. He attends the Presbyterian church, of which his wife and daughter are members.

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ANDREW JACKSON KERBAUGH, one of the most highly-educated and enterprising agriculturists of McLean county, is the owner of a valuable farm of two hundred and ninety acres in Allin township, and his management of the estate is marked by the scientific knowledge and skill which characterize the modern farmer. He was born November 17, 1852, in Greenville, Greene county, Tennessee, a son of Henry M. and Margaret (Davis) Kerbaugh, also natives of Greenville and representatives of prominent old southern families. The father, who was born in 1822, engaged in farming and stock raising in his native state and continued to follow those occupations after coming to McLean county, Illinois, in 1851. At first he rented a farm in Allin township, but meeting with success in his new home, he was soon able to purchase a place, which he did in 1859. In his family were seven children, of whom Andrew J. is the fourth in order of birth, and five of the number are still living.

Our subject was only a year old when brought by his parents to McLean county, and in Allin township he has since made his home. His preliminary education was obtained in the public schools, which he attended until 1872, and then entered Lincoln University, taking an elective course for



three years. On leaving that institution in 1875 he commenced teaching in the district schools, and after being thus employed for two years, he was principal of the Stanford schools for one year. In 1878 he purchased a farm of eighty acres, the operation of which he superintended while teaching in Stanford, and then located thereon, having purchased it under circumstances which necessitated personal supervision in order that he might cancel the note give by him for five years at ten per cent for the whole amount. By hard work, close economy and good management, he had his farm paid for at the end of that time, had stocked it, and had eleven hundred dollars left. He had also laid many rods of tiling, so that it was in much better shape to yield good returns for his labor. He has continued to prosper and as his financial resources have increased, he has added to his farm from time to time until now he has two hundred and ninety acres, it being one of the most valuable pieces of property near Stanford. It is all under excellent cultivation and well improved.

On the 24th of September, 1887, in Chetopa, Kansas, Mr. Kerbaugh was united in marriage with Miss Belle Johnson, a daughter of Pembroke and Elizabeth M. Johnson, now deceased, who were early settlers of Illinois. Mr. Kerbaugh brought his bride to the home he had prepared for her and with her able assistance has made it a most comfortable and pleasant place. To them has been born one son, Leland Park, who is now attending school. The parents are both sincere and faithful members of the Cumberland Presbyterian church and are held in high regard by all who know them. For twelve years Mr. Kerbaugh has most efficiently served as

trustee of his township, and has also filled the office of school director two years. He does not belong to any lodge or secret society, preferring to spend his evenings with his family. As a farmer and stock raiser he has met with well-merited success, and with the assistance of three men has planted two hundred acres of corn and seeded to oats one hundred and eighty-eight acres in five weeks' time. He is very progressive and public-spirited, and is a man of refined and cultured taste, who gives his support to all measures calculated to advance the moral, educational or material welfare of his township or county.

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**B**ERT MARLEY KUHN. Few men are more prominent or more widely known in the enterprising city of Bloomington than Mr. Kuhn. He has been an important factor in the upbuilding of the city for a number of years, and his popularity is well deserved, as in him are embraced the characteristics of an unbending integrity, unabating energy and industry that never flags. He is public-spirited and thoroughly interested in whatever tends to promote the moral, intellectual and material welfare of the city, and his labors along those lines have been most effective. He possesses a depth of character and fidelity to principle which everywhere command respect, and Bloomington accounts him one of her most representative citizens and honored men.

A native of Red Wing, Minnesota, he was born on the 16th day of April, 1858, and is a son of Jacob A. Kuhn, who has been prominently connected with the educational and commercial interests of McLean county, but is now living retired. When only a year old Bert M. Kuhn was

taken by his parents to Hudson, Illinois, where he attended the public schools. He further continued his studies in Tonica and the public schools of Normal, Illinois, where he graduated in the class of 1879, and then engaged in teaching in Yuton, McLean county, for a year. On the expiration of that period he went upon the road to introduce a system of dress cutting, of which he is the patentee. For three years he traveled and the excellence of the system secured its ready adoption, making it very popular. It is called the Climax Tailor System, and has become widely known throughout the country, being now in use by over three hundred thousand dressmakers, which number is constantly increasing. It is still being manufactured and sold by Mr. Kuhn, but in the business he is now represented on the road by a number of traveling salesmen, who find this a most salable article. From the beginning the enterprise proved a profitable one, and gave to Mr. Kuhn his first real start in business life.

After accumulating some capital in this way, he began making investments in real estate and since that time has handled a large amount of property. When he saw a house, lot, farm or other realty offered for sale at favorable terms he would purchase it and hold it until he could dispose of it to good advantage. In this way he has handled a large amount of farm and city property, his sales equaling if not exceeding those of any regularly established real-estate dealer of Bloomington. He now has on hand a number of farms and office buildings, buying lands from Indiana to Nebraska. He is considered one of the best judges of real estate values in this part of the state, and his correct knowledge of property has

enabled him to invest most judiciously and acquire therefrom a handsome fortune. Nor have his efforts been confined alone to the two lines of business mentioned. He is a man of resourceful ability and marked executive power, and has handled wisely and well many investments. He has been a stockholder in a number of important corporations, at one time had a half interest in the Lincoln street railway, and later was the sole owner, but afterward disposed of the road. He was one of the promoters of the new Coliseum recently erected and a member of its directorate. He has erected from five to ten residences annually in Bloomington and has thus materially advanced the interests of the city, as well as furnished employment to a large force of workmen.

But while actively engaged in extensive business enterprises Mr. Kuhn has also found time to assist his fellow men and has been a potent factor in the advancement of many benevolent enterprises of the city. He is thoroughly in sympathy with the underlying beneficent principles of the Masonic fraternity and holds membership in the lodge, chapter and council of Bloomington. He is a member of the board of trustees of the Deaconess' Hospital and has been largely instrumental in promoting the beneficent work from the time of its inauguration to the present. In his political affiliations he has always been a stanch Republican and has taken a leading part in campaign and committee work, doing all in his power to promote the cause which he believes will best advance the welfare of the nation. He was appointed by Governor Tanner to the responsible position of treasurer of the Soldiers' Orphans' Home at Normal, in May, 1896, and now has the

handling of about seventy-five thousand dollars annually for that institution.

On the 7th of June, 1883, Mr. Kuhn was united in marriage to Miss Alice E. Squier, of Calhoun county, Illinois, a daughter of Ashur G. Squier, one of the pioneers of that part of the state. He was a leading, influential and successful farmer and a prominent Republican. Mrs. Kuhn was educated in the Normal University, and by her marriage has three children, Louis S., Waldo A. and Nellie. Both Mr. and Mrs. Kuhn hold membership in the First Methodist Episcopal church of Bloomington, in which he is serving as steward and a member of the official board. The air of culture and refinement which pervades their home makes it very attractive to Bloomington's best citizens, many of whom are numbered among their warm friends. Mr. Kuhn, in consequence of his more active life, is especially widely known. He is a man of broad capabilities, as his varied and extensive business interests indicate. He is at all times approachable and patiently listens to whatever a caller may have to say, always courteous and at all times a gentleman in the truest and best sense of the term. He is devoted to the welfare and happiness of his family and cares not for notoriety, nor is there about him the least shadow of mock modesty. He is a gentleman of fine address and thorough culture, occupying a first place in society as well as in the commercial circles of northern Illinois.

1814, and is the son of Benjamin and Betsy (Bond) Warlow, the former a native of New York, and the latter born about six miles from Boston, Massachusetts, November 25, 1785. She was the daughter of Jonathan and Sally (Crossman) Bond, her father being born April 30, 1750, and her mother, July 20, 1773. They were the parents of nine children, of whom Betsy was seventh in order of birth. Jonathan Bond served in the war of the Revolution in a Massachusetts regiment, and our subject has the powder horn which he carried through the entire war. It has his initials on it. For some years he was engaged in teaming between Leicester and Boston. He died July 26, 1810, of lockjaw, caused by a wagon passing over his foot. His wife died September 28, 1822.

Benjamin Warlow was born February 21, 1785, and in his youth learned the trade of bootmaker, serving an apprenticeship of seven years and six months. After completing his term of apprenticeship, he went to sea, and for two years was in the service on a man-of-war, during the war of 1812, having been drafted. He was stationed at Quebec. Having enough of sea life, he returned to Boston, and commenced working at his trade again. He there met and married Betsy Bond, and soon after they moved to Northampton, Massachusetts, where they resided until 1816. From Northampton, they moved to Oneida county, New York, and for the succeeding five years he was engaged at his trade. He then tried farming in that locality, where he resided until 1832, and then moved to Pickaway county, Ohio. He remained in that place, however, but two years, and on the 10th of October, 1834, he arrived at Dry Grove, McLean county, Illinois. For the suc-

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JONATHAN B. WARLOW, a pioneer and resident of McLean county for more than fifty years, but now residing in Fresno county, California, was born in Northampton, Massachusetts, June 27,



ceeding two years, he rented land of our subject's uncle, Joshua Bond, and then entered eighty acres and at once commenced its improvement. On that farm he continued the rest of his days, in the meantime acquiring one hundred and sixty acres additional, giving him a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres. To Benjamin and Betsy Warlow eight children were born, two of whom died in infancy. Those who lived to maturity were Jonathan B., our subject; William C., who is living in Bloomington, at the age of eighty-two years; Se-repta E.; Richard A., living in Allin township, at the age of seventy-seven years; Lafayette; and Bond W., who is living near Wellington, Kansas, at the age of seventy-two years. Benjamin Warlow died September 8, 1864, and his wife, February 24, 1877, at the age of eighty-eight years.

The subject of this sketch spent his boyhood and youth in Oneida county, New York, coming with his parents to McLean county in 1834. In his youth he had no opportunity for acquiring an education, and after his marriage he began to learn to read by himself. He soon developed a taste for learning, and is to-day a well-informed man, although self-educated. The first winter after his arrival in McLean county, with the help of his brother, he split rails for fencing the eighty-acre tract that his father purchased. With his father he remained until twenty-four years old, assisting him in his farming operations. He then commenced for himself, working for a time for Joseph Clark.

On the 15th of November, 1838, Mr. Warlow was united in marriage with Miss Catherine Hay, a native of Hopkinsville, Kentucky, born January 3, 1812, and daughter of Peter and Elizabeth (Finley) Hay, the

former born May 17, 1770, and the latter in 1774, and the parents of eight children, of whom Catherine was seventh in order of birth. Mr. Hay was a large slaveholder in Kentucky, where his death occurred. After his death the slaves were liberated and sent to Liberia, and the family came to McLean county.

After his marriage, Mr. Warlow located on "squatted land," and rented a farm which he cultivated, and in three years earned and saved money enough to buy a tract of forty acres, which was the nucleus of his present valuable farm of two hundred and forty acres in Danvers township. He has also two hundred and sixty acres in Allin township, two hundred and forty acres in Reno county, Kansas, and a tract at Fresno, California, which is used principally as a vineyard, but on which he raises peaches, pears and other fruit.

To Mr. and Mrs. Warlow eight children were born. Elizabeth B. married William Skeen, and they reside in Reno county, Kansas. John W. died at the age of seven years. Mary M. married Jesse Brinard, and their home is in Reno county, Kansas. Susan E. died at the age of six months. Celia J. married George L. Johnson, and with their five children—Clyde, Ray, Imo, Newton and Katie—they reside in Fresno county, California. Their son, Ray, is now deputy sheriff of Fresno county. George L. is a lawyer of Fresno, California. He married Ella Knowles, and they have one child living, Chester, and three deceased. Delpha B. married George B. Rowell, and they also reside in Fresno county, California. They have one daughter, Bernice. Ida K. is the wife of Harvey Abbott, and they reside on the old homestead in Danvers township. Mrs. Warlow died June 21,



1885, and her remains were laid to rest in the cemetery at Danvers. She was a good mother, a loving and affectionate wife, and her death was sincerely mourned, not alone by the bereaved family, but by many friends who knew her in this life.

Mr. Warlow continued farming and stock-raising in Danvers township until March 15, 1887, when he went to California, and located in Fresno county. The prime object of his going was for the benefit of his health, which has become impaired. Purchasing twenty acres of unimproved land, at fifty dollars per acre, he commenced its improvement by planting a vineyard, and setting out about one thousand fruit trees, consisting of nectarines, peaches, pears and apricots, and has now one of the finest fruit farms in that section of the country. He makes his home in Easton, California, about one mile from his farm, and about six miles from Fresno, where he endeavors to take life easy, enjoying its comforts as best he may.

In politics, Mr. Warlow has always been a Democrat, but his sympathies are with the present administration on the money question. Feeling the want of an education himself, he has always taken a deep interest in the public schools, and for some years served as school director, and for many years was a school trustee. On his farm in Danvers township, and also on the one in Allin township, a school house has been built.

Mr. Warlow has been quite successful in life, and in addition to his landed interests, he is a stockholder in the Peoples Bank, of Fresno, California, and has an interest in a packing house in Easton, California. In every sense of the word he is a selfmade man. Without education,

only as acquired in the school of experience, without money or influential friends, he has been enabled to lay by in store a comfortable competency to serve in old age. His children are all comfortably situated, and the world is the better for his having lived.

JACOB A. KUHN, who after an active and honorable business career is now living a retired life in Normal, was born in Martick township, Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, July 19, 1832, a son of Abraham and Barbara (Hart) Kuhn. His father was a native of the same township, born January 24, 1792, and there the grandfather, Frederick Kuhn, took up his residence at an early day. Abraham Kuhn learned the weaver's trade in his youth, and after arriving at years of maturity he was married, December 30, 1819, to Barbara, daughter of Valentine Hart, also a resident of Lancaster county. Mrs. Kuhn was born in Martick township, January 31, 1798, and by her marriage became the mother of five children. Her husband died March 25, 1833, after which she removed with her little ones to Wayne county, Ohio, where she made a home for them, residing there for many years. After the year 1855, her children having become old enough to care for themselves, she went to live with them, and her death occurred in Normal, February 15, 1879. She was a lifelong member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and was of Pennsylvania Dutch descent, her father having belonged to one of the old families of that nationality.

In the common schools of Ohio, Jacob A. Kuhn acquired his education, supplemented by study in the Ohio Wesleyan Uni-

versity, at Delaware, that state. Through his youth he assisted his mother in the work of the home farm, but later entered upon educational work and taught for thirty or forty terms in Illinois, Indiana and Minnesota. He came to McLean county in 1852 and was successfully engaged in teaching near Danvers and other places. He was married in 1855, and the following year removed to Pine Island, Minnesota, where he conducted a private school. He also located a claim a half mile south of the town, and for three years followed the dual occupation of teaching and farming. After one winter spent in Iowa, he spent a short time in Hudson, Illinois, and then went to Tonica, where he carried on carpentering in connection with his educational labors. Later, returning to Hudson, he there engaged in merchandising for six years and also served as townships clerk. He next removed to Jackson county, Indiana, where he carried on farming for three years, and then took up his abode in Normal, where he has resided almost continuously since 1875. He has, however, conducted business enterprises at various places. He was in the lumber business in southern Indiana and in 1884 went to Nebraska, where he spent three years upon a claim of four hundred and eighty acres of land. He lived there alone, looking after the property interests of himself and son Bert, who together owned more than a section of land. He made good improvements on the place and finally sold out at an excellent profit. On leaving Nebraska he traveled through the south, introducing the Climax dress-cutting system of which his son Bert is patentee, and then returned to Normal, where he has since lived retired, enjoying a rest which he has truly earned and richly deserves. Here he

owns good property, having a very pleasant home.

In May, 1855, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Kuhn and Miss Mary Denning, the wedding taking place near what was then called Concord, but is now Danvers, McLean county. The lady was born in Richland county, Ohio, near Belleville, December 5, 1833, and is a daughter of Samuel B. Denning, who was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, March 1, 1811, a son of Solomon and Ann (Hart) Denning. Solomon Denning was a native of the north of Ireland, and when a youth of twelve years crossed the Atlantic with his father, Samuel Denning, and settled in Virginia, whence the son afterward removed to Pennsylvania, where he followed the shoemaker's trade. He there married Ann Hart, a daughter of Valentine Hart. He spent his entire life there and died in Columbia when his son Samuel was only three years old. His wife also died a few years later. Samuel Denning then went to live with an aunt, and after two years went to the home of his grandfather, who died when the boy was only fourteen years of age. He then started out in life for himself, learned the weaver's trade and followed that and other occupations, whereby he might earn an honest living. He married Elizabeth Alexander and her death occurred February 7, 1833. He then started westward, locating in Wayne county, Ohio, and after two years he went to Richland county, Ohio, where he entered a small tract of land and built a house, which continued to be his home for five years. In 1841 he became a resident of Hillsboro, Montgomery county, Illinois, and in 1849 came to McLean county, purchasing land south of Danvers, but selling the property in 1855. He accompanied his

son-in-law Mr. Kuhn, to Minnesota, but returned in 1859 and followed farming until his retirement to private life. His wife died December 14, 1893, leaving seven children. He has resided at the same place in Normal for twenty-six years and is one of the honored and venerable citizens of the community. He has long been a prominent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in his political belief is a Republican.

Mr. and Mrs. Kuhn have also been identified with the Methodist church throughout their residence in Normal and have largely promoted its work and growth. At one time Mr. Kuhn was a member of Masonic lodge at Tonica, but dimitted and became a charter member of the lodge in Hudson, which, however, is not now in existence. From the organization of the party he has been a staunch Republican in politics, and at all times is true to his duties of citizenship and to the obligations that rest upon him in public and private life. His life labors have been crowned with a degree of success. Dependent upon his own exertions from an early age he acquired a liberal education, and in financial circles made steady advancement until he became possessed of a comfortable competence. His name is synonymous with honorable dealing and his life record is unclouded by shadow of wrong.

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**W**ILLIAM A. PETERSON, the well-known and popular manager of the new Coliseum, of Bloomington, was born in Springfield, Illinois, September 16, 1864, a son of Alfred Peterson, who was born in Stockholm, Sweden, and when a boy started for America with his mother, sister and two brothers, but the mother died on

the voyage and was buried at sea. The father had died previous to this time and the sister soon after the arrival of the family in the new world. The three brothers, Jacob, Charles and Alfred, located near St. Louis, Missouri, the father of our subject being at the time only five years old. Later he learned the machinist's trade in St. Louis, where he continued to make his home until during the civil war, when in 1862, he removed to Springfield, Illinois, where he and one of his brothers conducted a soda water factory for a number of years. It was in that city that he married Miss Mary E. Carter, a daughter of William E. Carter, a prominent attorney of that time and an associate of Abraham Lincoln. She was born in Moravia, Indiana, where her ancestors, who were Quakers, had located at a very early day when the Indians were far more numerous in that region than the white settlers. About 1867, Alfred Peterson and his brother came to Bloomington and started a soda water factory at the corner of Mulberry and Madison streets, where they did a large and successful business until their property was destroyed by fire. In this way and through other adverse circumstances, the father of our subject lost the fortune he had accumulated. He was a large-hearted man and his generosity amounted to almost a fault. He died in Springfield, in 1892, but his wife is still living and makes her home in Bloomington. To them were born four children: William A., our subject; Alfred, who is connected with the Pantagraph; Lillian, wife of Benjamin Cohen, of Louisville, Kentucky; and one who died in infancy.

During his boyhood, William A. Peterson attended the public schools of Bloomington and also spent two years and a half



at Baker's Business College, from which he was graduated. In Myer's mill on South Cedar street he learned the miller's trade, and there remained two years, after which he worked in the big Gibson mills at Indianapolis, Indiana, for three months, but on account of the dust was obliged to give up that occupation. Accepting the first position that presented itself, he was news agent on the Lake Erie & Western Railroad for a time, and later was on the Big Four Railroad running out of Indianapolis, but he did not like that occupation and soon gave it up. Returning to Bloomington he went to work in the paint shop of the Chicago & Alton Railroad Company, where he remained three years and then gave up the position, as he had grown tired of that occupation. In the meantime he was always to be found around the opera house at night, passing bills, ushering or doing other odd jobs which he could get, and he also worked for the bill poster. Finally, on quitting the Chicago & Alton Railroad shops, he was given a position by George Cummings, who now has charge of the advertising of one of the leading theatres of New York City, and under him our subject became thoroughly familiar with everything pertaining to the management of a theatre, and when he resigned his position as foreman bill poster, Mr. Peterson was given the position of foreman of the bill posters in Bloomington, which he held for about four years. He then went on the road as advance agent for Harry Webber, of the Nip & Tuck Company, and the last year he was with them he was one of the actors. He first went on the stage as a substitute for one of the actors who was ill, and so well did he succeed in playing his part that he was retained in that capacity. Leaving the company at New Orleans, he

returned to Bloomington and was again made bill poster for the opera house, which position he held in all eighteen years, fourteen years at one time. He continued to superintend the bill posting until the opening of the Coliseum, when he was offered the position of manager of that house, which is one of the largest opera houses in central Illinois, having a seating capacity of thirty five hundred. He has made the theatre business a study for years, so that he thoroughly understands it, and is meeting with most excellent success in the management of the Coliseum, being careful in his selection of plays so as to have only first-class performances. He is now able to give to the public a one dollar show for fifty cents, and thus far has received a most liberal support. He still does his own posting. Mr. Peterson has not only proved a good business manager, but is also quite successful as an actor, and in the home minstrels of one hundred people, given by the Carnival Association, he played an important part. He staged the piece Carl Johnson, the Woodman, in which his children took part.

Mr. Peterson married Miss Josephine Krimmel, of Springfield, Illinois, and to them have been born two children: Leota Litta and William A. They have a modern and attractive home on South Madison street, which was erected by our subject at a cost of three thousand dollars. Socially he is quite prominent, and has been a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, Blooming Grove Lodge, No. 110, for six years; Pythias Lodge, No. 161, K. P., for seven years; and Custer Company, No. 22, Uniform Rank of Knights of Pythias, in which he has served as record for two years and as first sergeant. He could have gone



through all the chairs, but his evenings are generally occupied by his business. All local entertainments receive his endorsement and support, and he is widely and favorably known in theatrical circles.

**D**R. J. E. COVEY, of Lexington, Illinois, is a well known physician of acknowledged skill and ability of McLean county. He was born in Downs township October 8, 1861, and is the son of Cornelius and Dicy (Johnson) Covey, the former a native of Cayuga county, New York, born February 26, 1815, and the latter a native of Kentucky, born July 29, 1818. Cornelius Covey moved with his father, Edward Covey, to Ohio when he was but two years of age, and there the family remained until 1836 when they came to McLean county, or what was then a portion of McLean county, locating at Farmer City, in what is now DeWitt county. While yet residing in Ohio, he received his education in the pioneer schools of that state. His father was by occupation a farmer, and he was reared to that calling. Edward Covey passed to his reward November 28, 1854, his wife surviving him some years, dying March 19, 1861. Her maiden name was Hannah Northrup, and she was the sister of Stephen J. Northrup, who carried the news of Arnold's treachery from West Point to Hartford, where General Washington was then stationed.

After coming to Illinois, Cornelius Covey remained with his parents until he attained his majority, and from their home he walked to Pekin, Tazewell county, where he worked during the winter of 1838 in a slaughter house, making enough money to purchase ten acres of land, on which he

built a small log house with one room, got married and commenced life in earnest. The young couple moved into the house before the floor was laid, and the wife would hold the tallow candle while the husband hewed logs for the puncheon floor. Nearly all the furniture used in that cabin he made from logs. For a time he chopped wood and split rails, earning thereby fifty cents per day. His good wife was not idle in the meantime, but with her loom and spinning wheel made an equal amount. In that log cabin they resided a few years, and then moved to what is now Empire township, McLean county, where he purchased thirty acres of land from his wife's mother. On that farm he resided with his family until about 1850, when he moved to Downs township, where he took up one hundred and sixty acres of prairie land, about one mile from any timber. He was told by the settlers that he would freeze to death being so far from the timber, but he only laughed at them. Improving the place, he lived on that farm until 1879, when he moved into the village of Leroy, where he lived in retirement during the remainder of his life, dying January 18, 1892.

On the 5th of September, 1837, Cornelius Covey was united in marriage with Miss Dicy Johnson, daughter of James and Catherine Johnson, pioneers of McLean county, coming here from their native state of Kentucky about 1823, being among the very earliest settlers of White county, Illinois. They located near Bloomington, which had then but a few small log cabins. They died but a few years ago and were buried on the home farm in Empire township. To Cornelius and Dicy Covey eleven children were born—Katherine, Edmund, James R., Byron, Sarah E., Nathan, Lorenzo, Stephen

H., William J., Henry and John E. Mrs. Dicy Covey was named for a daughter of Daniel Boone, who was a dear friend of the family. In politics, Cornelius Covey was a Republican, and religiously he was a Baptist, as was also his wife. She died August 4, 1895.

The subject of this sketch received his primary education in the district schools of Downs township, and on the removal of the family to Leroy, he attended the high school of that place, from which he graduated in 1880. On leaving the high school, he taught school one year in Empire township, and in 1881 entered the Illinois Wesleyan University at Bloomington, taking the scientific course of two years. During the summer of these two years he studied medicine with Drs. White and Guthrie, of Bloomington, and in March, 1884, entered the Rush Medical College Chicago, where he remained three years, taking what was known as the graded course, comprising three full winter and three full spring terms, and graduating February 26, 1887.

On receiving his diploma, Dr. Covey immediately located in Lexington, where he has since remained. He first commenced practice in partnership with Dr. J. C. Graham, and was with him about two and a half years. Purchasing the interest and good will of his partner, he has since continued alone in practice, with gratifying success. He takes great interest in his profession, and always endeavors to keep posted in the latest discoveries in the medical world. He is a member of the McLean County Medical Society, of the Illinois State Medical Society, and of the American Medical Association, and in the proceedings of each he takes an active and lively interest.

On the 29th of May, 1890, Dr. Covey was united in marriage with Miss Emma L. Scrogin, who was born in Lexington township, September 8, 1869, and daughter of Levin P. and Sarah E. Scrogin, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume. By this union two children have been born, Katherine and John E., Jr., both of whom are attending the schools of Lexington.

In politics the Doctor is a staunch Republican, and cast his first presidential vote for Benjamin Harrison in 1888. He is now serving as one of the alderman of his city, a position he has filled for two years. Fraternally he is a member of Lexington Lodge, No. 482, A. F. & A. M., in which he has filled all the chairs; of Chenoa Chapter, No. —, R. A. M.; of Ideal Lodge, No. 338, K. P., of Lexington, in which he has also filled all the chairs; and of Ingomar Camp, No. 601, M. W. A. He is also a member of the Baptist church, of which body his wife is also a member. He is medical examiner for some twelve or fifteen insurance societies, most of them being old-line companies.

The Doctor has been quite successful in a financial way, and has made some very good investments. He has lately purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land in Money Creek township, which cost him a snug sum of money. In addition he owns a good farm in Lexington township. As a citizen he is enterprising and progressive, ready to assist in any enterprise of public benefit. No man in Lexington has more friends or is held in higher esteem.

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**A**DAM WAYBRIGHT, who lives on a fine farm of eighty-seven acres adjoining the village of Downs, first came to Mc-

Lean county in 1849. He is a native of Virginia, and was born in Highland county, May 16, 1826. He grew to manhood in his native county, and was reared to farm life. It was with him work, work, almost from early childhood. Prior to leaving his native state, he was united in marriage with Miss Millie Wicks, who was born in Shenandoah county, Virginia. After his marriage he engaged in farming, but as his means were not sufficient to own and use slave labor, he felt that he could not succeed, and with others determined to emigrate to Illinois, where land was yet plenty and where the opportunities would be far greater for ultimate success. Accordingly, in the fall of 1849, about six families started from their old Virginia home destined for McLean county, Illinois. They arrived here just before Christmas, and Mr. Waybright found employment on the farm of John Price, adjoining the one on which he now lives. He later rented the Price farm and run that for seven years, and during that time purchased eighty acres of unimproved land in Downs township, on which he located and commenced to improve. After remaining there two years he sold the same and purchased sixty acres, which he also improved. He remained on that place four years, and then sold for fifty dollars per acre, which was a nice advance on the purchase price. He then purchased a farm of one hundred and thirty-nine acres, known as the James Weaver place, on which he resided eight years, selling that for fifty dollars per acre, which was an advance on the purchase price. In 1882 he purchased eighty-seven acres where he now resides, and on which he has continually lived since that time.

Since removing to his present farm, Mr.

Waybright has made some good improvements, including the erection of his present neat and comfortable dwelling house. In addition to his farming and stock raising, for some years Mr. Waybright was engaged in buying and selling stock, in which line he met with a fair degree of success. In connection with Peter Price, Mr. Waybright laid out the village of Downs, and paid the greater part of the expense in the erection of the station buildings. Commencing life without a dollar, Mr. Waybright has gone along the even tenor of his way, adding little by little to his store, as the years passed by, and is now in very comfortable circumstances, with no fear of the future.

In 1880 Mrs. Millie Waybright departed this life, and for his second wife Mr. Waybright married in Lincoln county, Missouri, March 5, 1885, Miss Alice Colaw, a native of that county and state, and daughter of Jesse Colaw, who was born and reared in Highland county, Virginia, but who was an early settler of Lincoln county, Missouri. By this second marriage there are three children living—Walter D. Leslie, and James Adam. One daughter, their first born, died in infancy.

Politically, Mr. Waybright is a Jacksonian Democrat, and with that party he has continued to act all his life, believing with all his heart in its principles. His first presidential vote was cast for James K. Polk. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which body his wife is also a member. For fifty years—a half century—he has been a citizen of McLean county, and during that time he has seen villages and cities spring up, and the whole county dotted over with excellent farms and farm houses, while school houses and churches are within convenient distances



to the whole body of people, and evidences of prosperity abound on every hand, and in the great work that has been accomplished he has been no unimportant factor.

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**WILLIAM RICHARD WHITE.** In the great trade circles of the west there has been no one who has borne a more unsullied reputation than this honored resident of Bloomington. He is of the highest type of the self-made man, one who has by untiring effort, close application, unabating energy, and laudable ambition risen from obscurity to an eminent place among the representatives of the industrial interests of the country. Through all, the uprightness of his nature has remained unchangeable. Following in the path of duty he has so lived as to win the confidence and esteem of all. Integrity, activity and energy have been the crowning points of his character, and his life history represents an eventful and interesting career in which difficulties and obstacles have been overcome, and wealth has rewarded honorable and consecutive labor.

A native of Illinois, Mr. White was born at Goose Nest Prairie, in Coles county, a mile east of the home of Abraham Lincoln, about the time he served in the state legislature. The date of his birth was December 22, 1844, and his parents were Bartholomew and Elizabeth (Easton) White. He traced his ancestry back to one of the patriots of the Revolutionary war, William White, who joined a South Carolina regiment and gave his life for the cause of American independence. His son, William White, grandfather of our subject, removed from South Carolina to Tennessee, and on

March 3, 1828, came to Coles county, Illinois, entered land from the government and there spent his remaining days, his death occurring about 1837.

Bartholomew W. White was born in Smith county, Tennessee, January 6, 1812, and was a lad of fifteen years when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Coles county. He began his education in Tennessee and completed it in this state. After his marriage he engaged in farming, buying a tract of land which he cultivated for some nine years. He also engaged in hauling lead from Galena to Milwaukee for nine years. He afterward spent thirty years in educational work and in the ministry of the Christian church, and throughout the state his influence was widely felt. He established many churches in the new settlements throughout Illinois, and baptized nearly four thousand people. He often went from thirty to one hundred miles to preach the gospel, traveling on horseback, receiving for his services whatever the people wished to pay him. His life was one of consecrated devotion to the cause. His power and influence in his holy office were exerted in a spirit of the deepest human sympathy and tender solicitude, nor was there denied him the full harvest nor the aftermath whose garnering shall bring the sure reward in the words of commendation, "Well done, good and faithful servant." He read the opening chapter at the funeral of the father of Abraham Lincoln, at which time the Lincoln family resided near Janesville, in the vicinity of the White family. Mr. Lincoln, Sr., often visited at the home of our subject, and while Rev. White was at Galena he always performed the service of taking honey from the hives for the family.





WM. R. WHITE.

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In 1859 Bartholomew White, with his eldest son, joined a party *en route* for Pike's Peak, but returned to Illinois in the fall and resumed his ministerial labors. There was much suffering in the mining regions of Colorado at that time, many starving to death. He returned with many relics, but no gold, and again preached the gospel to the people of Illinois for many years. At length he retired to Neoga, this state, where his son, William R., purchased him a home in which he afterward resided. The son also paid off his father's debts, amounting to twenty-two hundred dollars, and the aged preacher has gone to his long home, being called there by the angel of death, February 11, 1899, aged eighty-five years, one month and five days. His wife passed away on the 20th of December, 1884. She was born in Palestine, Crawford county, Illinois, September 4, 1816, a daughter of William Richard Eaton, for whom our subject was named. He was born in Kentucky, and married Elizabeth Eaton about the year 1782. To them were born eleven children. He was a successful carpenter and cabinet maker, and served his country as a soldier in the Blackhawk and Mexican wars. He was one of the pioneers of Crawford county. Some of his children were born in a fort near Vincennes, Indiana, and at an early day he removed to Coles county, where his daughter Elizabeth was reared, her marriage to Mr. White being celebrated in Charleston, Coles county, October 2, 1834. In her early years she was noted for her skill in spinning and weaving flax, and in doing little jobs of carpenter work around her own home she was also proficient. It was probably from her that William R. White inherited his mechanical genius. She was

a most earnest worker in church and Sunday school, and was so well versed in the scriptures that she could sustain an argument with any minister of the time, expressing her views with a clearness and force that often made her opponent call into question the soundness of his own opinions. Withal she was so kind, gentle and loving that she died without an enemy in the world. "Her children rise up and call her blessed."

Unto Bartholomew and Elizabeth White were born nine children, who reached years of maturity. Lewis B., who died in California in 1884, was for twenty-five years a successful school teacher. He was an expert penman, could display thirty-two variations in his handwriting, and could inscribe his name five times at once, using both hands and his mouth. He was an excellent grammarian and a master of the art of rhetoric, and his splendid gifts of oratory made his services in great demand as the speaker on various public occasions, especially at Fourth of July celebrations. Paroleane became the wife of James Conrad and died, leaving a son, John Conrad, of Crawford county, a most earnest Christian gentleman over whose life record there falls no shadow of wrong. Arminda J., now deceased, was the wife of Jackson Brooks, who had gone before marriage to California. To them were born five children. She was a most thorough Bible student, able to discuss with theologians any disputed point, and was a correspondent of Rev. Mathews, the publisher of the Christian Record, of Cincinnati, who was a pioneer minister of the Christian church. In Sunday-school work she was most zealous and earnest, and at all times she closely followed in the footsteps of the lowly Naza-

rene. Hannah E. became the wife of Newton Smith, an elder of the church in Hutton township, Coles county, Illinois. She, too, was an earnest worker in the church, willing to make any sacrifice for the advancement of the cause of Christianity. In manner she was most charming, affable and kindly, and was no less beautiful in person, having a fair complexion. Delilah Emiline, who married J. Prather, is a tall but winsome blue-eyed woman, living near Neoga, Illinois. Her husband was fair, with black eyes, and their first two children were blue-eyed, the second two black-eyed, the third two blue-eyed, and the last two had eyes like the father's. The home of this family was near Neoga, and most of the children have engaged in teaching school. William R. White is the next member of his father's family, and was followed by Mary C., who is the wife of John G. Hunter, of Neoga. They have four children, all of whom have been teachers, and two of the sons afterward became preachers. James Napoleon White was a Union soldier during the civil war and died at Chattanooga while in the service. Sarah Malinda is the wife of William P. Lacy. They own a nice farm near Neoga, and they have one son. Like the other members of her family, Mrs. Lacy is devoted to church and Sunday-school work, has been a delegate to many of the conventions of her denomination in the state, and by her excellent vocal powers has contributed not a little to the musical features of these meetings. Martha E. is the wife of Nathan B. Haskett, and is a prominent member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Neoga, Illinois. Melsena is the wife of J. W. Spencer, a miller of Neoga, by whom she has three children. She, too, possesses superior musical ability, a talent which is

shared by most of the members of the White family.

Fate seemed to have been unkind to William R. White in his childhood, for the first eight years of his life were spent in almost total darkness. Serious trouble with his eyes made it almost impossible for him to bear the light and he was forced to remain in a large walnut cupboard or under a bed from which heavy quilts were hung, thus excluding the light. He did not see the sun until eight years of age, and through his affliction was deprived of most of the pleasures which children enjoy. He worked for his brother in order to get his old books, his first text book being an old third reader. He first attended school when eleven years of age, but his entire course, continuing at intervals until his nineteenth year, did not cover more than eighteen months. He was ambitious to learn, however, and studied in his leisure moments and at night. As his father was poor and could not afford kerosene oil or candles William would carry bark from the timber where he made rails and clapboards for a mile on his shoulder, and use it for lighting purposes, when he was poring over his books. In school he managed to master Ray's Third Part Arithmetic to analysis, and completed it at home. He was an apt scholar and possessed an excellent memory. At one time he wished to contest for a Sunday-school prize by memorizing the six chapters of the book of the Ephesians, which he did in one week while following the plow. In a pocket he carried a testament, and while the horses were turning at the ends, and at noons and mornings, he memorized it. He took great interest in literary and debating societies, and his oratorical ability was so far in advance of



the others of the neighborhood that finally at one place he was ruled out of the societies because every one feared to debate against him. In his early manhood, when eighteen years of age, he began teaching, a profession which he followed for fourteen years. He taught for nine years in seven adjoining districts, and during the last part of his labors in that profession he held a first grade certificate. His advance seemed always in the face of many difficulties and hardships, but a resolute spirit and honorable purpose enabled him to triumph over these, and ultimately win success.

In 1871 misfortune overtook him and he had to place a mortgage upon his little farm of fifty acres. He eventually lost the place, and then turned his attention to invention. Possessed of much mechanical ability, he had studied the needs of the farmers and at length produced a fence, without wire, bolt, pin or augur hole. He perfected his invention but had not the money to patent it until his sister Delilah and other friends loaned him the sum, he to pay one hundred dollars' worth of the invention for each dollar received. The patent was at length secured and the invention proved a success so that his financial stress was soon relieved, and from that time forward his capital has constantly increased until it has now assumed extensive proportions. The fence meeting his expectations, Mr. White now wished to invent a gate to go with it, and commenced the labors that have resulted in the production of the Bessemer steel gate, which is unequaled by anything of the kind ever placed upon the market. Before this was done, however, he invented many wheel and swinging gates, and finally the oscillating arm steel gate, which was patented in May and June, 1897. He now has a large

and splendidly equipped gate factory in Bloomington, in which city he has made his home since 1893, and at times the factory has been operated day and night in order to meet the demands of the trade. For one hundred and four days his sales on the gate amounted to five hundred dollars daily, or fifty-four thousand dollars. In a short time his sales had reached ninety-seven thousand dollars, and he had done no business on Sundays. Later his sales amounted to between three and four hundred dollars per day for some months, and now the White gate is known throughout the entire country. He has not only sold direct to purchasers, but has disposed of the territory at reasonable rates, so that others have profited by the invention which has now yielded to him a princely fortune. He has secured altogether sixty patents and four hundred and eighty of his claims on gates have been allowed. His sales on his own inventions have amounted to over a half million of dollars, but he does not claim to be worth that amount, and as yet the White Bessemer Steel Gate has hardly been two years on the market. Its value to the agricultural public can hardly be overestimated and it is but another triumph of the American skill and genius which has placed this country at the head of all nations in the production of useful inventions. He received the Blue Ribbon and Diploma from the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago, and a gold medal premium, carried off similar prizes at the Omaha exposition, and expects to exhibit the gate at the Paris Exposition in 1900. He got first honors on his farm gates at New Orleans in 1885, and at Louisville in 1886. The United States Government has selected his gates as worthy of being placed in the patent office exhibits at all the large exposi-

tions in the United States for thirteen years.

Mr. White was quite an inventor when he taught school, but did not know it at the time. He carried in his vest pocket a little book, called an Idle-book. If a pupil were idle during school hours, he would give it a mark; if a second time he gave it another mark secretly; then he would tell the school that a member had two marks, and if he had to give him three idle-marks that day the same pupil would have to be whipped, a thing he would be pained to do, so James thought it was he, Mary feared it was she, Bob almost knew it was he, and the result was they all studied as they never did before. The facts are, in three schools only one boy "of fourteen years" had to be whipped. Mr. White told him how sorry he was that a good, bright boy should commit such a crime; that it was bad to swear, to lie was worse, for a falsehood injured others, but to be idle injured himself, his teacher, and deceived his parents, who furnish all pertaining to the school, and such an offence was grave indeed,—that those who did not work should not eat. So that ended the whipping; the warning was all he had to do.

On short, cold days Mr. White would tell the school interesting things, then have a recess in which queries would be propounded, and the hard questions be sent to the parents of the scholars. He would open his school by singing an appropriate song. Once while he was teaching in the western part of Cumberland county, Illinois, the adjoining teacher learned that part of Mr. White's school had changed from Webster's speller to McGuffie's, and bantered Mr. White for a spelling match. Mr. White accepted the challenge, and went to his school with about twenty pupils.

The other teacher got a pronouncer from his own district, who selected his words promiscuously, and if a pupil of that district missed a word, he would say "how?" and of course the pupil would change. On words that he expected Mr. White's pupils to miss, he would also say "How?" expecting them to change and miss. Near midnight it ended up even, but Mr. White informed the school of the unfairness of the man giving out the words, and challenged his neighbor's school, to meet with his the next week, which challenge was accepted. Mr. White learned the other school meant to post up, and got his pupils to agree to do just what he planned. He told them that where there was a family of three or five, to pair off in twos, and as near in scholarship as possible, then they must go to each other's house, one taking a book, and pronouncing every word from page eight to the last page, each word missed must be marked, and then that book must be handed to the one spelling, and in turn must have every word in the book put to him, and all words marked that he missed, and then each must learn to spell every word so marked, and get its definition. When the schools met a pronouncer was secured from a third district, and there were eighteen on a side, as the other teacher only brought his best spellers. With the two teachers it made nineteen on a side. Possibly there never before was such an interest displayed. Each teacher took his place at the foot of his class. Tally was kept and at ten minutes after midnight, Mr. White cut down the last of the opposite side, leaving thirteen of his own to be spelled down. The man who kept tally, told him that his opponents missed three words to one by the pupils of his school. This was enough for the other school; they

went home the worst defeated school ever heard of until later Mr. White was hired at the Ailshire school, in the south part of the county. The year before, a teacher teaching below in an old and well-equipped district, had paid a visit to the Ailshire school and advertised them in the papers as being very poor spellers. This teacher was full of self-esteem, and made the remark that he thought the best scholar in the Ailshire school might spell the word Baker, which by the way was his name. Mr. White created quite an interest by Christmas, organizing a literary society, teaching a singing school of nights, and having spelling-matches and debates. Baker got interested, and would attend occasionally, soon proposing a spelling-match, one school against the other, saying that he expected his school, of course, would be beaten, but that should make no difference, so long as they could learn something. The older pupils went to Mr. White saying that it would never do to spell against that school, that he had advertised them the year before, and that his school was greatly advanced, while their chances had been meagre,—using a log house up to this year. Mr. White feared nothing, knowing his own tactics, and made a talk in favor of the spelling-match, which was carried by a single majority. The next day Mr. White informed his pupils of his plan to beat the other school, and all jumped to their feet with one accord, crying out with great enthusiasm, that they would do anything honorable to beat. When the spelling-match came off, Mr. White only lost one pupil, who happened to miss a word, and by 11:30 P. M., Baker himself, and his whole school, forty-five in number, had been cut down, leaving the remainder of Mr. White's school yet on the

floor. That was Baker's last school in that vicinity, and he pulled out and went west.

Mr. White often receives letters from his many pupils scattered in various states, eulogizing him for the good advice and knowledge imparted in the old district school. In teaching, Mr. White would first appeal to his school to learn that which they knew not, to pay little attention to the things already learned; to learn to-day rather than to-morrow; not to fear mistakes, for by mistakes we know what little we do know; that there was a great designer before the worlds were made, and that all things were made and adapted to meet some end. The hair grew upon the head instead of the feet as a protection; that the nails were on the hands and feet for the use of the hands and feet, but all for the use of the man. The earth was made for man, apparently, as he was given dominion over all other animals; that man could use implements, and could reason from cause to effect; that he could and did make improvements, and that his life was and has been longer than that of other animals. As the fingers and toes were made for the use of the body, the same kind of reasoning would teach that coal, iron, and all minerals were made for man, rather than other animals, as they could not use such. The same reasoning applied to steam and gasses of all kinds, hence the inference, "the earth was made for man by an all-wise Creator," and that all things existed from a cause.

On the 6th of October, 1866, Mr. White married Miss Harriet E. Kellar, daughter of Riley and Harriet (Miller) Kellar. Her father was a soldier in the Blackhawk war, and with his family removed from Jackson county, Indiana, to Neoga township, Cum-



berland county, Illinois, at an early day. When a young man Mr. White engaged in teaching vocal music, continuing in the same for seven years. Among his pupils in the singing school was Miss Kellar, whose acquaintance he thus formed. Their marriage has been blessed with seven children. Mary R., the elder, is the wife of G. W. Monroe, principal of a school in Sullivan, Illinois, and candidate for county superintendent of schools. They have four children, Zelma, Alora, Elizabeth and Arville. Mrs. Monroe was organist in the church in Neoga for a number of years, and is an accomplished musician. John F., the son, married Luella E. Pierce, a beautiful and cultured lady of Bloomington, and they have one daughter, Beatrice. He now has the management of, and owns most of his father's gate factory and is a capable business man, popular in both commercial and social circles. Fair Eleander possesses exceptional ability as an artist and is very proficient in both instrumental and vocal music. Martha E. is the wife of J. B. Spaulding, a prominent surgeon of Clinton, Illinois, and they have one daughter, Lucille. Delilah is the wife of R. M. Hall, the well known city editor of the Bloomington Leader. She, too, possesses considerable musical ability, as does the next daughter of the family, Bessie Lee, who is attending school. G. C., a bright boy of thirteen years, completes the family and is well versed in literary knowledge, natural history and languages, and very oratorical indeed for one of his age.

For many years Mr. White has been a most active and influential member in the Christian church, and contributes liberally to those interests tending to advance the moral and intellectual welfare of the com-

munity. Temperance and educational work find in him a friend and he withholds his co-operation from no movement for the general good. He possesses an excellent memory, is a fine speaker, holding the attention of his auditors by that intangible quality known as personal magnetism, as well as by the clearness and logic of his thoughts, often taking for subject—astronomy. His home, a beautiful residence, erected at a cost of thirty-seven thousand dollars, stands at the corner of East and Locust streets, and is a monument to the enterprise and ability of the owner. In manner he is most quiet and unassuming, entirely approachable to all, and refusing no one the courtesy of an interview. He is, in the truest sense of the term, a self-made man and is always glad of an opportunity to aid one along the stony path which he has trod. His life is a splendid illustration of what may be accomplished in this free land by young men of industry, resolution and ambition. He has enjoyed triumphs in his business career, but in private life has gained that warm personal regard which arises from true nobility of character, deference for the opinions of others, kindness and geniality. Such is the life history of one of the most honored and esteemed citizens of Bloomington.

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PETER GRATZ, deceased, was for a number of years a prominent and successful business man of Bloomington, conducting the leading custom tailoring establishment in the city. He was born in Prussia, Germany, March 31, 1839, a son of Peter Gratz, who brought his family to America in 1854 and located at North Vernon, Indiana, where he purchased land and engaged in agricultural pursuits until his



death. Our subject was educated in the public schools of his native land, and as his parents wanted him either to enter the priesthood or learn a trade, he chose the latter and commenced learning tailoring before the emigration of the family to the United States. He completed his apprenticeship in Cincinnati, Ohio, and he continued to work as a journeyman until the breaking out of the civil war.

Prompted by love of his adopted country, Mr. Gratz enlisted in the Ninth Ohio Volunteer Infantry on the first call for seventy-five thousand men to assist in putting down the rebellion, but being taken sick he was soon afterward discharged. Later he joined the home guards and went to the front after his marriage. On the 4th of November, 1862, he wedded Miss Katherine Metz, who was born and reared in Hamilton, Ohio. Her parents, Peter and Elizabeth (Cook) Metz, were natives of Germany and early settlers of Hamilton. The mother lived to the ripe old age of eighty-seven years. Having no children of their own our subject and his wife adopted May, a niece of Mrs. Gratz.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Gratz lived in both Cincinnati and Hamilton, Ohio, and in 1866 came to Bloomington, where for seven years he worked as a cutter for Mr. Helman, who had one of the leading tailoring establishments of the city at that time. He then embarked in business on his own account as a merchant tailor, and from the start met with most excellent success, building up a large and profitable trade which gradually increased. Later he moved to the old stand occupied by Mr. Helman and successfully carried on operations there until his death, which occurred November 27, 1893. As a business man he

was always upright, prompt and reliable, and he became one of the directors of the Third National Bank of Bloomington. In 1882 he purchased a lot at No. 903 North Main street, and erected thereon a beautiful home where his widow still resides. He was quite prominent in Masonic circles, being a charter member of Uhland Lodge, F. & A. M., and also belonged to Bloomington Chapter, R. A. M.; Bloomington Consistory, and De Molay Commandery, K. T. As a Republican he took a deep interest in political affairs, but was never an aspirant for office. In his daily life and action he was ever genial and affable and he made a host of warm friends who esteemed him highly for his genuine worth and true nobleness of character. As a citizen, friend and business man he was true to every duty, and justly merited the high regard in which he was held by the entire community.

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JOHN GREGORY, who is living a retired life in the city of Normal, has been a resident of McLean county since 1844, and is properly classed among the early settlers. While there were settlements here a number of years before his arrival, the greater part of the county was yet in its primitive state, and all had to experience the trials incident to pioneer life. The virgin soil must be turned, farms must be created, school-houses must be built, churches erected, and all nature must be completely changed. To such men as John Gregory is due the great changes that have been made, and which has placed McLean county among the foremost counties in this grand prairie state.

John Gregory was born in Fayette

county, Ohio, October 8, 1821, and is the son of Jehiel and Sarah (Van Dolah) Gregory, the former, a native of New York, born in 1782. The paternal grandfather, Jehiel Gregory, Sr., was also a native of New York, and was quite a prominent man in his day. He for many years was engaged in milling and merchandising in connection with farming. While long past the legal age for military service, he yet served his country in the war of 1812, as did his son, the father of our subject. He died at a good old age, but his wife survived him, dying at the age of ninety-nine years and nine months.

Jehiel Gregory, Jr., moved with his parents, when but a child, to Ohio, the family first locating in Athens county, and later moving to Fayette county. In the latter county he grew to manhood, and after receiving but a limited education in the pioneer schools, he learned the blacksmith trade, which he afterwards followed in connection with farming. He was quite a large land owner and an extensive farmer. In 1823 both he and his wife departed this life. They were the parents of four children, of whom two are yet living, Mrs. Annis Knotts, of Lexington, Illinois, and our subject. Mr. Gregory was but two years of age when his parents died, and he was taken by an uncle, Adlai Gregory, with whom he remained until he was twelve years old. He then lived for a time with his grandmother Gregory, and after the marriage of one of his sisters he lived with her until his own marriage. His education was obtained in the subscription schools of his native county, and after leaving school he worked by the month for various persons until coming to McLean county in 1844.

Mr. Gregory has been twice married, his first union being with Miss Caroline Dawson, the wedding ceremony being celebrated January 9, 1842. She was a native of Ohio. By this marriage there was one son, Jehiel, who died at the age of twenty-two years. The second marriage of Mr. Gregory was on the 9th of July, 1846, when he took to wife Miss Mary A. Henline, daughter of George and Margaret Henline, who came to McLean county from Kentucky in 1828, and were therefore numbered with the pioneers of the county. Mrs. Gregory was the first white child born on the Mackinaw river, and she was one of their ten children. Her father was by occupation a farmer, and his death occurred many years ago, as did that of his wife.

To Mr. and Mrs. Gregory ten children were born, of whom seven grew to maturity, as follows: Margaret, widow of James Moon, now resides in the city of Normal. She is the mother of four children: Minnie, Simon, Byron and Alonzo. George married Amanda Moon and died at the age of thirty-eight years, leaving two children: Emma and Florence. The widow now resides in Normal. Sabra is the wife of Willis Alspaugh, and they have four children: Effie, Mamie, Willa and John. They reside in Gridley township. John C. has been twice married, and by his first marriage there were three children: Pearl, Ruby and Rudolph. His second marriage was with Ida Sill, and they reside in Normal. Ira married Minnie Lanham, and they have four living children: Edna, Harold, Ivy and Garold. They live in Gridley township. Byron married Hattie Britt, and they have three children: Omer, Marie and Florence. They reside in Money Creek township. Grace is the wife of Fred W. Liggitt, and

to them have been born three children: Fred G., Charles Chester and Mildred. They reside in Normal.

On coming to McLean county Mr. Gregory located in Gridley township, and for three years cultivated a rented farm. He then purchased two hundred and seventy-five acres of partly improved land, and at once commenced its further improvement. From this time on success seemed to follow in his footsteps. Within five years he added to his original purchase, and from time to time made still further purchases of land, until he had about three thousand acres. While he cultivated vast fields of grain, he endeavored always to feed the greater part of it, believing it cheaper to ship in the form of stock than in bulk, and much more profitable. Stock-raising with him was a specialty, and for many years he fed upon his place fully five hundred head of cattle per year. In all that he did he endeavored to do well, and gave his personal attention to every detail of his business, and to this fact he ascribes his great success in life. He has not alone confined himself to farming and stock-raising, but has made investments in other directions. In 1882 he assisted in organizing the Third National Bank of Bloomington, taking a large amount of stock in the enterprise. In 1883 he was elected by the board of directors vice-president of the bank, and has continued to occupy that position to the present time.

In 1870 Mr. Gregory moved to the city of Normal, where he has a fine home. While coming to the city primarily for the purpose of living retired, he has not, however, been permitted to wholly carry out his plans. By the citizens of the township he was three times elected to fill the office of

county supervisor, a position which he was well qualified to fill by reason of his good business and executive ability. He has also filled nearly every local position either in Normal or the township of Gridley. In early life he was a Whig politically, but on the dissolution of that party he became a Democrat, and with that party has since continued to act. Religiously he and his wife are members of the Christian church, with which body they have been identified for many years. He has served his local congregation in the office of elder, an office the duties of which he discharged in a faithful manner. His interest in the church has never wavered, and in the teachings of the Master he has the utmost faith.

A residence of more than half a century in McLean county, the greater part of which time he spent in active business life, and doing an immense business, has given Mr. Gregory an extensive acquaintance, and it is but just to say the confidence bestowed on him by the people has never, in a single instance, been betrayed. He has always been close to the people, and with them has experienced hardships that have cemented the ties that bind humanity together. He has the love and esteem of all who know him, and is worthy of it.

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**FRANCIS M. FRANKENBERGER.** The inevitable law of destiny accords to tireless energy and industry a successful career. "Earn thy reward; the gods give naught to sloth," said the sage Epicharmus, and the truth of the admonition has been verified in human affairs in all the ages which have rolled their course since his day. The subject to whose life history we



now direct attention has, by ceaseless toil and endeavor, attained a marked success in business affairs, has gained the respect and confidence of men, and is recognized as one of the distinctly representative citizens of Bloomington, where he is extensively engaged in the real-estate, loan and insurance business.

Mr. Frankeberger was born January 6, 1849, and is a descendant of one of the pioneer families of McLean county, where his entire life has been passed. His parents were Benjamin and Aravilla (Hendryx) Frankeberger, and the former, born in Urbana, Ohio, June 10, 1822, was a son of Jesse and Rosanna (Rhinehart) Frankeberger. The paternal grandfather was a native of Virginia, and having attained to mature years removed to Ohio, casting in his lot with the early settlers of the Buckeye state. He was one of the pioneer Methodist Episcopal ministers and rode the circuit, undergoing many hardships in order to spread the "glad tidings of great joy" among the people. His wife was a member of the well-known Rhinehart family of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. Some time between the years 1827 and 1829 the Rev. Jesse Frankeberger came with his family to McLean county, locating thirteen miles east of Bloomington, where he entered land from the government. A few years later he removed to the city where he made his home for twenty-five or thirty years. His name is one of the first on the records of the First Methodist Episcopal church of this city, and for a long period he continued his ministerial labors among the pioneers of McLean county. He died in 1868, and his wife survived him about four years. On the maternal side Francis M. Frankeberger is of German descent. His great-

grandfather, Abram Hendryx, was a soldier of the German army and came to America during the war of the Revolution. Pleased with the country he determined to make it his home and thus established his family on American soil.

Benjamin Frankeberger, the father of our subject, was reared in this county, acquired his education in the common schools, and in early life engaged in farming, but later turned his attention to carpentering in Padua township, doing business as a contractor. He was married March 13, 1841, to Aravilla Hendryx, daughter of Anthony and Lois (Mix) Hendryx, natives of New York. Married in that state, they removed thence to Ohio, and came to McLean county about 1838, but soon went to Jacksonville, Illinois, where the father died. The mother then came to make her home with her uncle, John Hendryx. Benjamin Frankeberger removed with his family to Keokuk, Iowa, when that region was just opening up to civilization, and there carried on agricultural pursuits. He also took quite a prominent part in public affairs, held the office of deputy sheriff, and also engaged in teaching school. He was a very active member of the Methodist Episcopal church, was class-leader and steward, and the hospitality of his home was always extended to the visiting preachers. He also acted as a local preacher, filling many an appointment as an exhorter, when otherwise there would have been no service. For nine years Mr. Frankeberger remained in Keokuk, Iowa, engaged in farming, teaching and church work, and then removed to Bremmer county, where he again served as deputy sheriff. He was also largely instrumental in promoting the work of the Methodist church there, and died in the faith of that denom-



ination in 1858. In Masonic circles he was also prominent, and served as lecturer for that fraternity for some years. At his death he left a widow and four children. The mother at once returned to Bloomington with her family, educated them, devoted herself entirely to their welfare and has lived to see her sons become prosperous business men, her daughter happily married. She died at Leroy, April 1, 1899. Her children are Mary J., wife of L. C. Hendryx, of Leroy, Illinois; Ephraim B., of Urbana, Illinois; Francis M. and Albert J., both of Bloomington.

As his mother was in very limited circumstances, Francis M. Frankeberger had very little opportunity to attend school, being obliged to work and aid in the support of the family. However, he acquired a thorough knowledge of the branches taught in the common school, and experience, observation and extended reading have brought him a wide fund of general knowledge. He followed various pursuits that would yield him an honest living up to the time of his marriage, and then entered railroad work, which he followed for nine years. He entered the train service of the Big Four Railroad Company and gradually worked his way upward, serving as conductor, yardmaster and in other important positions. Strictly temperate and always faithful, he had no trouble in retaining his place and remained with the company until 1883, when he resigned in order to engage in the real-estate business. From the beginning he has met with success in his undertaking, and has not only handled a large amount of Bloomington property, but has also sold Chicago real estate to the value of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars in less than two years, and dealt quite extensively in

western lands. His sales have been unsurpassed in extent and importance by those of any real-estate dealer in the city, and he has made judicious investments for himself until now he owns much valuable property. In connection with such prominent citizens as Rev. Dr. E. Edwards, Dr. H. C. DeMoth, Professor Potter, C. W. Klemm and Benjamin Funk, he is engaged in the insurance business, being a director of the company and superintendent of the agencies. He is a man of marked executive force and ability, forms his plans carefully but readily, and is determined in their execution. His judgment in business matters is rarely, if ever, at fault, and his keen discrimination and unabating energy have been salient features in his very enviable success.

On the 9th of April, 1871, Mr. Frankeberger married Miss Hattie E. Hemming, of Princeton, Illinois, daughter of William and Helen (Wells) Hemming. Her paternal grandparents were Richard and Helen (Leggett) Hemming, of Washington county, Pennsylvania, and the former was a son of William Hemming, who was born in England in 1758, and came to the United States in 1774. The maternal grandparents of Mrs. Frankeberger were Buzaleel and Maria (Porter) Wells, the former a son of Richard and Helen (Wells) Wells. Richard Wells was one of the heroes of the Revolutionary war, and his father, Alexander Wells, also aided in the struggle for independence. He was one of the earliest settlers of Cross Creek township, Washington county, Pennsylvania, and there owned a mill used in grinding the flour for the soldiers. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Frankeberger have been born six children: Maude M., wife of G. N. Kinney, of Bloomington; Clara Belle, wife of W. F. Brown,

of this city; Albert Leslie; Mary Emma; Edith Frances and Jeanne Pearl. The parents and four of their children are members of the First Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Frankeberger contributes very liberally to its support and is very active in philanthropic and charitable works. A man of broad humanitarian principles, he does much to help others less fortunate than himself,—yet ever in the most unostentatious manner. He belongs to Remembrance Lodge, I. O. O. F., of which he is past grand, and has also taken the degrees of the grand lodge. He holds membership in Jesse Fell Lodge, K. P. and has membership relations with other fraternal organizations.

In politics Mr. Frankeberger is a very active Republican, has served as a member of the county central committee, and was on the executive committee for two years, during which time he made a report that came within six of the exact number of votes cast at the election, and that during one of the most hotly contested campaigns in the history of the county. In 1898 he was prominently mentioned for sheriff. He is known as one of the most successful workers in the Republican party and displays excellent managerial ability. He was one of the organizers of the first McKinley club of the city, and his labors have ever been most effective in promoting the interests of the grand old party. For years a prominent business man of Bloomington, honored and respected in every class of society, he has long been a leader in thought and action in the public life of the city. He inspires personal friendships of unusual strength, and all who know him have the highest admiration for his good qualities of heart and mind.

LAFAYETTE STUBBLEFIELD, one of the most progressive, energetic and successful agriculturists of McLean county, makes his home on section 30, Randolph township, and owns and successfully operates two well improved and valuable farms. He is a native son of this county, born in Funks Grove township, April 30, 1860, and is a worthy representative of one of its most prominent and honored pioneer families.

His father, Absalom Stubblefield, was born in Ohio, in 1815, and was a son of Robert Stubblefield, a native of Virginia, whose family were among the early settlers of the Buckeye state. About 1824 Robert Stubblefield, with his wife and children, came to McLean county, Illinois and made a permanent location in Funks Grove, though the county at that time had not been laid out and all the country round about was in its primitive condition. From the unbroken prairie he developed a farm, upon which he moved his family. His son Absalom also took a claim of forty acres on reaching man's estate, placed the land under cultivation and erected thereon good farm buildings. As time passed and his financial resources increased he bought more land, owning at one time about fifteen hundred acres, divided into four different farms. He was one of the most enterprising and prosperous farmers of the county and was a man highly respected by all who knew him. After a long and useful life, this honored pioneer passed away February 24, 1895, when nearly eighty years of age. He was thrice married, his second wife, Miss Alice Wilson, being the mother of our subject. She was a native of DeWitt county, Illinois, and a daughter of Thomas Wilson. The other children born of this union are William J., a farmer of Dale township; and

Charlotte, wife of N. L. Bozarth, a farmer of Allin township.

On the old homestead in Funks Grove township, LaFayette Stubblefield spent the days of his boyhood and youth, attending the common schools of the neighborhood and becoming thoroughly familiar with every department of farm work. He remained with his father until the latter's death. On the 18th of September, 1884, in Dale township, was celebrated his marriage with Miss Matilda Kent, who was born, reared and educated in Livingston county, Illinois, her father, Nathaniel Kent, being one of its early settlers. They now have an interesting family of three children, namely: Absalom N., Oren and Allie L.

After his marriage Mr. Stubblefield lived upon a part of the old home farm for several years, but in February, 1896, removed to his present place, where he has one hundred and sixty acres of fine farming land. He still owns two hundred and forty acres of the old homestead, and operates both farms with most gratifying results. His specialty is the raising and feeding of stock, which he fattens for market, and annually ships from eight to ten car-loads of cattle and hogs.

The Republican party has always found in Mr. Stubblefield a staunch supporter of its principles, as was also his father, who was originally an old-line Whig. Our subject cast his first presidential vote for James G. Blaine, and has always taken a deep and commendable interest in public affairs, especially in educational matters, and as a member of the school board and president of the district has labored effectively for the betterment of the schools in his locality. He and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church of Heyworth,

and occupy an enviable position in the best social circles of their community. He is a courteous, genial gentleman who makes many friends and has the happy faculty of being able to retain them.

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ALEXANDER MODEL, a leading carriage and wagon-maker of Bloomington and one of its honored residents, has been prominently connected with the business interests of the city since the fall of 1860. Looking back through the vista of the past, we see a friendless young man who came to the new world in search of a home and fortune, and at present we see his ambitious dreams realized, and his is an honored old age, crowned with the respect and veneration which is accorded a well-spent life.

Mr. Model was born near Constance, Baden, Germany, September 13, 1828, a son of J. George Model, who lived at the old home which has belonged to the family for many generations. There our subject was reared and in his native land he acquired his literary education and also learned the wagon-maker's trade. Learning it there meant learning it well. After serving his three-years' apprenticeship, he worked as a journeyman for small wages, and sought employment in different places that he might thoroughly master the different methods then in use by different establishments.

Mr. Model continued to work at his trade in his native land until 1856, when he sailed for America, landing in New York. Shortly after his arrival, he found employment in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, where he worked for two years, and then came to Illinois, locating first at High-



land, Madison county, but at the end of nine months he came to Bloomington. Here he was in the employ of Louis Marten, and later of Mr. Hayes, and Mr. O'Neil until 1876, when he purchased the ground where he still carries on business at 208 and 210 West Grove street. Here he first had fifty by one hundred and fifteen feet, on which was a one-story shop. He has since done all kinds of carriage work, and as his trade has grown he has employed a large force of hands. He does only first-class work in both manufacturing and repairing and has never handled anything from the cheap factories which are now so common. More than twelve years ago he added a two-story brick building to his plant, and now owns one hundred feet on West Grove street, where he also has his residence. Besides this valuable property he owns a place at the southwest corner of Clay and Evans street, all of which has been acquired through his industry, perseverance and good business ability.

On the 10th of August, 1856, in Hamilton, Canada, Mr. Model was united in marriage with Miss Mary M. Sauerizen, also a native of Germany. Of the four children born to them, two are still living, namely: John A., an express messenger on the Canadian Pacific Railroad and a resident of Toronto, Canada; and Louisa Carolina, wife of Goodman Ford, superintendent of the Pacific Express Company at Winnipeg, Manitoba, by whom she has three children, Charles Edwin, Scott Waldron and Louisa. Mr. and Mrs. Model have been members of the First Methodist Episcopal church of Bloomington since 1866, and they are widely and favorably known throughout the city. In August, 1862, he enlisted in Company E, Eighty-second Illinois Volunteer Infantry,

which was assigned to the Army of the Potomac, and was in the service for two years, when he was honorably discharged on account of illness. He has always voted the Republican ticket, but has never cared for the honors or emoluments of public office. His integrity stands an unquestioned fact in his history—endowed by nature with a sound judgment and an accurate discriminating mind, he has not feared that laborious attention to business so necessary to achieve success, and this essential quality has ever been guided by a sense of moral right which would tolerate the employment only of the means that would bear the most rigid examination, by a fairness of intention that has neither sought nor required disguise.

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JOHN DUNLAP, deceased, was for some years one of the most honored and highly-respected citizens of Empire township, and was actively identified with its agricultural interests. He was a native of Illinois, born in White county, April 21, 1827, and was a son of Moses Dunlap, a native of Tennessee, and a pioneer of White county, Illinois. He was also one of the first to locate in this county, taking up his residence here as early as 1830. Here he pre-empted land where the family now reside and became the owner of a large tract, upon which he reared his children and spent his remaining years.

John Dunlap was only three years old when brought by his parents to this county, and here amidst pioneer scenes he passed his boyhood and youth, his education being obtained in the schools of Bloomington. At the age of sixteen he began teaching, and for several years followed that profession



very successfully in this county. In 1850 he led to the marriage altar Miss Elizabeth Rice, who was born in Ohio, but when a child of three years was brought to McLean county, Illinois, by her parents, Henry and Jane (Hall) Rice, also natives of the Buckeye state and honored pioneers of this county, where they settled in 1833. Her father opened up and improved a farm in Empire township, upon which he made his home until called from this life.

Soon after his marriage, Mr. Dunlap, accompanied by his wife, removed to Wayne county, Iowa, where he took up a claim and resided thereon for five years, but at the end of that time he returned to this county and settled on the old Dunlap homestead. Here he owned one hundred and fifty-six acres of valuable land, and beside this property had another farm of one hundred and twenty, which was fairly well improved. Upon the home farm he built a large and substantial residence, set out an orchard, and made other improvements which added to the value and attractive appearance of the place. Being a thorough and systematic farmer and successful business man, he left his family in comfortable circumstances at the time of his death, which occurred upon his farm July 20, 1897.

To Mr. and Mrs. Dunlap were born ten children, who are still living, namely: Henry, who is now successfully carrying on the home farm in connection with his mother; Josephine, at home; Rosella, wife of Bud Hoffman, of West township; Moses, a resident of Le Roy; James, at home; Stephen D., who is married and living in Le Roy; William, who is married and follows farming in Empire township; Lucinda C. and Margaret A., both at home; and Daisy, wife of James Booth, of Empire

township. There are also nine grandchildren.

Politically, Mr. Dunlap always affiliated with the Republican party, as do his sons, and he held various offices of honor and trust in his township. He was one of the most reliable and upright citizens of his community and commanded the respect and confidence of all with whom he came in contact, either in business or social life. His record was an honorable one, and his memory will long be cherished by the many who had the pleasure of his friendship. His family is one of prominence socially, and Mrs. Dunlap, like her husband, is held in high regard by all who know her.

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**S**AMUEL REES. McLean county has many well-to-do and successful farmers who have accumulated what they have of this world's goods through individual effort. Among the class the name of the subject of this notice is entitled to a place. He is residing on section 2, Empire township, where he is industriously engaged in the prosecution of his noble calling, and is meeting with more than ordinary success.

Mr. Rees was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, October 6, 1835, and is a son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Hagens) Rees, also natives of that state, where the father followed the occupation of farming for some years. In 1838 he removed to Licking county, Ohio, where from a wild tract he developed a good farm, and there spent the remainder of his life, dying at the age of fifty-two years. His wife, who survived him for a number of years, removed with her family to Franklin county, Ohio, after the death of her husband, and later

came with her son to Illinois, where she departed this life at the age of eighty years.

Samuel Rees is one of a family of ten children, five sons and five daughters, all of whom reached years of maturity, and with the exception of the youngest, all married. The boyhood and youth of our subject were principally passed in Licking and Franklin counties, Ohio, where he acquired a limited education in the common schools. He engaged in farming in that state after reaching a sufficient age, and on first coming to McLean county, Illinois, in 1855, he operated rented land in West township for ten years.

On the 21st of February, 1856, in Bloomington, Mr. Rees married Miss Emily J. Adams, a native of Delaware county, Ohio, and they have become the parents of five children, namely: James Edwin, who is married and engaged in farming in Empire township; Martha, wife of John Gilbert, of Le Roy; Benjamin, who is married and follows farming in Dawson and Empire townships; Ella, wife of Isaac Murphy, of West township; and Homer, at home.

After his marriage, Mr. Rees continued to engage in farming upon rented land for several years, and in 1872 made his first purchase, consisting of fifteen acres, where he now resides. This had been cleared and fenced and a shanty erected thereon. To this he has added from time to time as his financial resources have permitted until he now has an excellent farm of one hundred and thirty acres, which he has placed under a high state of cultivation and improved with a neat and substantial set of farm buildings, including a comfortable residence. Besides this property he owns a good residence and three lots in Le Roy. In connection with general farming, he has engaged in stock raising and feeding, making a spe-

cialty of sheep and hogs, which he has found quite profitable. He started out in life for himself empty handed, and it is entirely through his own labor, enterprise, economy and fair dealings that he is now the possessor of a valuable and well-improved farm.

Mr. Rees has always given his political support to the Democracy, and cast his first presidential vote for James Buchanan in 1856. He has never sought nor desired political preferment, but being a friend of education, he has most efficiently served as school director for eighteen years and is now president of the district. For almost half a century he has been identified with the agricultural interests of his adopted county, and by the building up of a good homestead he has materially advanced her interests and promoted the general welfare.

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FRANCIS M. MOATS, who resides on section 31, Money Creek township, is one of the most enterprising farmers and stock raisers in McLean county. He is a native of the township and was born February 20, 1840, on section 29, on a farm of which he is now the owner, but which was then rented by his father. He is the son of Henry and Elsie (Van Buskirk) Moats, the father being a native of Licking county, Ohio, born in 1810. In his native county Henry Moats spent his boyhood and youth, and in 1829 came to McLean county, and here spent the remainder of his life, engaged in agricultural pursuits. He took quite an active part in public affairs, and for many years served as justice of the peace and also as road commissioner, and other positions of honor and trust. In his family were four children, two of whom died in childhood. Those living are Francis



FRANCIS M. MOATS.

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M., our subject, and Mary J., wife of John Rankin, of Money Creek township. The paternal grandfather, Jacob Moats, was also a native of Ohio, and came in 1829 to McLean county, and here acquired considerable property, having at the time of his death over six hundred acres of land.

The subject of this sketch was reared upon the home farm in Money Creek township, and received such an education as the public schools afforded in the early days of the history of McLean county. He was early learned what it was to do hard work, and when twenty years old he commenced life for himself by renting a tract of land from his father, for which he paid a rental of one-third of the products. He was married about this time to Miss Rebecca Arbuckle, a native of Ohio, and daughter of David and Abigail (Biggs) Arbuckle, who were also natives of the same state.

Mr. Moats continued renting for some five years, and then purchased one hundred and forty acres on section 30, Money Creek township, which was his home until 1879, when he purchased and removed to his present farm. In addition to his farming operations, for about twenty years he was extensively engaged in buying and shipping stock in company with Elijah Crose, of Towanda, a line of business in which he was engaged until about 1890 with a fair degree of success. From time to time, as his means permitted, he added to his landed possessions until he has now about seven hundred acres of as fine land as there is in McLean county. Since 1897 he has been in partnership with William H. Reedy, of Towanda, in buying and shipping grain, and their trade is quite an extensive one.

Fraternally, Mr. Moats is a member of the Masonic order, holding membership

with blue lodge, council and chapter. In the blue lodge he has served as worshipful master for several years. In politics he is a Democrat, and while he takes an active and commendable interest in political affairs, it cannot be said of him that his activity is inspired by selfish motives, as he cares nothing for the honors or emoluments of office. His deep concern in educational affairs has caused his retention on the school board for a quarter of a century, and the time spent in that way he regards as well spent. It is as a business man, however, that he is best known. An active business career of nearly forty years has brought him in contact with many persons in all parts of the county, and wherever known he is most highly esteemed. His success has been well deserved, and is the reward of industry, perseverance and strict integrity. In addition to his farms, he is the owner of property in Towanda and in the city of Bloomington.

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ALBERT A. HOFMANN, the official reporter for the Ford circuit court, was born in Bloomington, Illinois, November 8, 1866, a son of George M. Hofmann, who was born in Bernhardsweiler Creilsheim, Wurtemberg, Germany, August 10, 1831, and died in Bloomington, May 26, 1884. Our subject's paternal grandparents spent their entire lives in Germany, where the grandfather died when his son, George M., was only eight years old, and the grandmother passed away at the advanced age of eighty-five years. Only one brother, William Hofmann, is now living, and he still makes his home at his birth-place in Germany, at the age of eighty years. Shortly after George M. came to the United States,

he was followed by his brother, Christian, who spent the greater part of his life in Oskaloosa, Kansas, where he carried on a lumber and hardware business. He died there May 12, 1898, at the age of sixty-two years, leaving his wife and family in comfortable circumstances.

George M. Hofmann, father of our subject, came to America in 1850, landing in New York City. In early life he was a sailor on the high seas for ten years, and visited all parts of the globe. At the breaking out of the civil war he was in New Orleans, and left that city on the last ship that sailed from there before the port was closed. Going to Boston he enlisted in the United States navy, and participated in the battle of Fort Jackson, and was present at the surrender of New Orleans. He did good service for his adopted country and was honorably discharged. He then returned to Boston, and at New Bedford, Massachusetts, he met Miss Paulina E. Hewert, whom he married in 1862. From there he went to Toledo, Ohio, where he was employed in a shipyard for a short time. In 1863 he came to Bloomington, Illinois, where he engaged in several different lines of merchandising until his death. He left a wife and three children, Albert A., Wilhelmina E. and Julius K., all of whom reside with their mother at the place of their birth on East Front street, Bloomington. Mrs. Hofmann was born in Prausnitz, Province of Schlesien, Prussia. She lost her mother when but twelve years old, and her father two years later. Her family at one time was quite wealthy, but business reverses reduced their circumstances, and after the death of her parents she refused the assistance of relatives, preferring to make her own way in the world. In 1860 she came to New Bedford,

Massachusetts, where until her marriage she lived with an elder sister, Mrs. Louisa Neuman, who had preceded her to this country. She still has one sister living, who is now seventy-three years old. Mrs. Hofmann was a devoted wife, and is a most affectionate and loving mother. Her daughter, Wilhelmina E., who graduated from Bloomington (Wesleyan) College of Music in 1890, is now a competent and efficient teacher of that art and has a large number of scholars, by whom she is well liked. She also enjoys the esteem of a large circle of acquaintances and friends. Julius K., the younger son of the family, is now engaged in furniture repairing on East Front street, Bloomington, having learned the cabinet-maker's trade with George Brand & Co. He served a five-years' apprenticeship, and in addition acquired the art of making looking-glasses. About five years ago he opened a shop of his own and has succeeded in building up quite a large and profitable business.

Albert A. Hofmann began his education under private instruction on account of ill health, but at the age of ten entered a business college, where he took a regular course in bookkeeping. After one year out of school, he returned and took a course in shorthand and penmanship. Although on account of his age he was in the junior class, he won the prize in mathematics. After leaving school he commenced practicing in the court-room through the courtesy of an attorney friend, and in February, 1884, entered the employ of Colonel H. G. Reeves. Later he spent five months with W. E. Hughes, now of Chicago, and then went to work on his own account, having his office with J. S. Neville, of the firm of Rowell, Neville & Lindley. He remained there for five years. In

December, 1885, he began reporting in the Ford county circuit court, and also in the Bloomington court, and in 1887, when the law appointing official reporters went into effect, he was given the position which he still holds. He has filled that office uninterruptedly with the exception of one year, when ill-health compelled him to leave. He now has in his possession a fine set of resolutions adopted by the Ford county bar at the time of his resignation, and when he was able to fill the position again he was re-appointed. He has also reported in McLean, De Witt, Tazewell and Livingston counties, and in other places. He reported the murder case, *People vs. Hartman*, who was hung in Paxton, Ford county, in May, 1897, and also interpreted for German witnesses in that and other cases. He has his office in the court house at Bloomington. He is a member of Remembrance Lodge, No. 77, I. O. O. F., and also of the First Presbyterian church of Bloomington. He is president of the Christian Endeavor Society of that church. He sincerely believes that whatever of good has come to him in this life is due to his trust and belief in the kindness of his Saviour.

**D**AVID KIMSEY PLUMLEY, an honored and highly-esteemed citizen of Bloomington, was born in Bridgeton, Cumberland county, New Jersey, October 9, 1828, on the day General Jackson was first elected president of the United States, and is a son of Nathan and Sarah Fithian (Kimsey) Plumley, also natives of Bridgeton, where they continued to reside until our subject was eighteen months old, the father being engaged in blacksmithing in what is known as Laurel Hill. They then

removed to Philadelphia, where his father followed the same occupation for several years. His mother died in that city, but his father's death occurred at an advanced age at Dividing Creek, New Jersey, where he had two daughters living: Mary, wife of George Sloane, now of Greenwich, New Jersey, and Rebecca M., now Mrs. Newcomb, whose home is near Millville, New Jersey. There were only six children in the family, the other daughter being Mrs. Sarah L. Blackman, of Dividing Creek, New Jersey. Our subject was the only one to come west. John, the eldest son, died at the age of eighteen months. Elizabeth died at the age of six years.

David K. Plumley was educated in the public schools of Philadelphia, and on laying aside his text books served a three-years' apprenticeship to the carpenter's trade, during which time he received fifteen dollars per year and his board, but had to buy his own clothes and pay his own laundry bills. He continued to work at his trade in that city for a number of years, being employed on the Jaynes building on Chestnut street, the Girard hotel and other prominent buildings. There he was married, November 2, 1852, to Miss Margaret S. Behring, of Philadelphia, a daughter of Casper H. Behring, who was for many years connected with the circulating department of the Philadelphia Ledger. Before leaving that city one child was born of this union: Nathan Charles, a druggist, now of Bloomington, who married Elizabeth Courtney and has three children: Clifford O., Earle and Ethel. The children that have since been added to the family are as follows: Laura, who is now Mrs. Chalfant, of Columbus, Ohio, and has one child, Frederick; William H. married Eleanor Clark



and has been connected with his father in business for five years as a member of the firm of D. K. Plumley & Son; and two children are deceased.

In 1856, Mr. Plumley brought his wife and child to Bloomington, and commenced business here as a carpenter, contracting and building on his own account until 1862, doing his first work here on what is now known as the Butler house. He also worked on the high school building, Academy of Music, and in fact all the buildings erected in these six years are monuments of his skill and bear traces of his handiwork.

Prompted by a spirit of patriotism, he then enlisted in Company A, Ninety-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, for three years. They were with Herron's Division, Army of the Frontier, at the battle of Prairie Grove, where the Union side, numbering only twelve thousand five hundred, fought against twenty-eight thousand Confederates, under four generals, but came out victorious with the aid of Blunt, who came to their relief. From the 4th of June, 1864, until the surrender of the city on the 4th of July, they took an active part in the siege of Vicksburg, and were under constant fire. Having received a sunstroke, Mr. Plumley was honorably discharged the following year on account of disability and returned to his home in Bloomington. He resumed contracting, but was forced to give it up two years later as he was still in poor health. For some time he was variously employed, but finally embarked in the awning and tent business, being the first man in the city to engage in that enterprise. He located at the corner of Main and Jefferson streets, where he carried on operations for over a quarter of a century, and succeeded in building up a large business. He adopted

a rule of doing first-class work, and has weathered all the panics successfully.

Mr. Plumley owns some little real estate and has the record of being one of the staunch Republicans of Illinois. He has never solicited nor received any political rewards, but has been content to use his influence to placing good men in office. He has the reputation of being an honest and upright man, and being so regarded has always been sought and employed by the better class of people of this community in whatever branch of business he has embarked. Being also a natural mechanic, what may be known as a "handy man," he has been almost indispensable to many, and the greater part of his life has been devoted to helping other people out of trouble, the little things that prove so annoying.

His home is at the corner of Evans and Jackson streets, where he owns eighty-three by one hundred and forty-three feet, and his residence was completed on the day of the Chicago fire, in October, 1871. Socially he is a member of Sherman Post, No. 146, G. A. R., and at one time was an active member of Evergreen City Lodge, I. O. O. F. As a business man and citizen, he merits and receives the confidence and respect of all with whom he comes in contact, and his friends are many throughout the city where he has so long made his home.

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**MORRIS CONNERY.** There is always an element of interest attaching to the history of the development of a city, county or state from its early beginning to its present advancement, and in tracing the part that the pioneer settlers have borne



in its continued progress and improvement. Mr. Connery is numbered among the early settlers of McLean county, dating his residence here from 1858. At that time many of its thriving towns and villages had not sprung into existence, and much of the land was still wild, awaiting the awakening touch of the farmer when it would respond with rich fertility. Mr. Connery's labors in improving the country have been more especially along the line of developing its agricultural interests, and in this way he has contributed not a little to its general prosperity. He was born in Cork county, Ireland, on the 13th of November, 1836, and is a son of Owen and Rose Connery, also natives of Ireland, whose entire lives were spent in their native country.

Seeing in America greater opportunities than in the Emerald Isle, our subject crossed the Atlantic for the American shore, which at that time required many tedious weeks. Upon his arrival he proceeded to Middletown, Connecticut, where he remained until he had acquired sufficient means to enable him to continue his journey still farther westward. In 1858 he started for Chicago, where he remained a few days and then proceeded to Carbondale, Illinois, over the Illinois Central Railroad, where he resided until March, 1859, when he removed to Chenoa, which at that time was represented by a few houses scattered here and there over the prairie. Here Mr. Connery made his home, and here he engaged in farming until failing health compelled him to abandon his occupation and move to town, where he purchased the comfortable and substantial residence where he is now living. At the breaking out of the civil war he enlisted in Company C, Forty-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, under Captain

Mills, whose regiment was under the command of Colonel Russell. He took a prominent and active part in the battles of Franklin and Nashville, the two-days' battle, and also in other battles and skirmishes of lesser importance. He served with great credit and distinction throughout the entire war and in 1865 was honorably discharged at Nashville, Tennessee.

On the 8th of February, 1866, Mr. Connery was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Callahan, who was born in Ireland, in 1840, and who is a daughter of Cornelius Callahan. Mr. and Mrs. Connery are the parents of six children, namely: Mary, born November 6, 1866; Nellie, born January 22, 1868; Willie, whose birth occurred October 23, 1870; Eugene, born March 3, 1873; James, who was born April 6, 1875; and Maurice, born November 24, 1884. The family are devoted members of the Catholic church, where they are very highly esteemed. Mr. Connery is a prominent member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and his associates and fellow-citizens, in and about Chenoa, have shown their confidence in him by placing him in several offices of the township, which he in his turn has filled with much benefit and satisfaction to the community.

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ROBERT R. JOHNSON. Faithfulness to duty and strict adherence to a fixed purpose in life will do more to advance a man's interests than wealth or adventitious circumstances. The successful men of the day are they who have planned their own advancement, and have accomplished it in spite of many obstacles and with a certainty that could have been attained only through their own efforts. This class of

men has a worthy representative in Mr. Johnson, whose business career is an exemplification of the opportunities that lie before the ambitious, energetic and enterprising young men of this free land. He is to-day numbered among the most prominent and successful men of Bloomington, and commands the respect of all by his close adherence to the ethics of commercial life, his strict regard for all that is upright and honorable.

A native of McLean county, Robert R. Johnson was born at Harley's Grove, west of Shirley, September 21, 1856, a son of William C. and Mary A. (Boyd) Johnson. The father was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, in 1831, was there reared to manhood, and in May, 1833, married Miss Boyd, daughter of Robert Boyd, who was born in the north of Ireland and was of Scotch descent. His wife bore the maiden name of Elizabeth Moffatt, and was also a native of the north of Ireland. The year following his marriage William C. Johnson came to McLean county, Illinois, making the journey with teams. No coal mines had been developed in this section of the country and the railroad companies paid high prices for wood. John A. Johnson, the grandfather of our subject, had a contract to cut the timber at Shirley, known as Harley's grove, and deliver the same to the railroad company, and William C. Johnson assisted in that work. On its completion he removed with his family to the city of Bloomington, where he engaged in teaming and in city street work, cutting and grading streets. In 1861 he rented a farm of LaFayette Funk, southeast of Shirley, and turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. Even at that comparatively late date the region was so sparsely settled that our subject often

seen wolves running over the prairies in the early morning and heard their howling at nights, while from his bedroom window he often shot prairie chickens.

On his return to the city William C. Johnson again engaged in teaming and had constructed for use in this way the first four-wheeled truck ever used in Bloomington. From a small beginning he worked up an excellent business, which gradually increased until in 1867 he was employing ten or twelve teamsters and controlling nearly the entire patronage in his line in the city. He sold out at that date to Shurtleff Chapman & Co. and removed to Chicago, where he conducted a similar business, having an entirely new outfit. His first patrons were Humphries, Gustin & Co., wholesale grocers, who removed to Chicago about the same time Mr. Johnson located there. His trade, however, constantly grew, and the business was profitably conducted until just prior to the great fire, when he sold out and returned to Bloomington, again establishing a transfer business here. Success likewise attended his efforts in this place, but after two years he returned to Chicago, where he was located during the time of the epizootic. Our subject drove through, the father having reserved one fine span of mules and heavy trucks, with which Robert Johnson accomplished the journey in four days, being one of the last men to make such a trip before the change of methods. For a year they conducted a good business, but the competition was very great and there seemed to be an excellent business opening in Bloomington. The sons were also growing up and they began a transfer business on a small scale in Bloomington, where their patronage has steadily increased until they are at the head of the leading industry in this

city. They began, however, with only one team, which the father drove, but gradually their patronage was enlarged and the sons became active factors in the enterprise. William Johnson remained in control of the business until his death, which occurred November 30, 1886. He was a very energetic and capable man, and his well-directed efforts were crowned with a high degree of prosperity. He was recognized as one of the ablest business men of Bloomington, which position he gained through sagacity and foresight, indomitable energy and undaunted perseverance. He not only advanced his individual interests, but promoted the general welfare by encouraging trade and commerce. His career, both public and private, was marked by the strictest integrity and faithfulness to every trust reposed in him. The record of his life is unclouded by shadow of wrong or suspicion of evil. He was known as an honorable man, a pleasant, social companion and a devoted husband and father. His widow is still living and has a very pleasant home in Bloomington supplied with all the comforts of life. They had five children: Robert R.; John A., of Omaha; Emma J., also of that city; James Edward, of Bloomington; and William H. All were reared in McLean county, and their business as well as home interests have been closely related. The mother is a valued member of the First Presbyterian church and a most estimable lady, whose friends in the community are many.

During his very early childhood Robert R. Johnson was brought by his parents to Bloomington, and when fifteen years of age he left school to assist his father, with whom he was associated in business most of the time until the latter's death. For a

time after their return to this city, however, he was engaged in other pursuits. For a year he drove a team for Larison Brothers and for a few months packed flour at nights in the Hungarian mill. The following summer he had charge of R. W. and T. T. Stubblefield's imported French draft horses, and also assisted in the work of harvesting, threshing and other labors of the farm. When winter came he entered the employ of Monroe Brothers, cutting and packing ice until the winter of 1875, when his father purchased another team, which our subject began to drive. Gradually the business grew; the next year they added a one-horse rig, which was driven by Edward Johnson, and after a short time they purchased a double rig, of which John, another brother, took charge. Prior to that time, and on leaving the public schools, John had entered the railroad shops and learned the carpenter's trade. He was afterward made foreman of the Chicago & Alton freight house, and continued in that position until the partnership was formed between Robert R., John A. and James E. Johnson. They had a capital of seven hundred and fifty dollars. With this they bought a truck, an express wagon, a team of horses and one large mule. With this equipment the firm of Johnson Brothers began the transfer business in Omaha, Nebraska, John A. removing to that city while the others remained in Bloomington. This was in February, 1886. In November of the same year the father died. On attaining his majority, Robert R. Johnson had been given a small interest in the business, but before his father's death had become an equal partner, and after the demise of Mr. Johnson the mother owned the other half-interest, our subject, however, continuing the active management un-



til William H. attained his majority, and became an active factor in the conduct of the business. James E. also disposed of his interest in Omaha to Emma J. and Brazella Boyd, and returned to Bloomington, purchasing a fourth-interest in the business here from his elder brother, while the mother sold a fourth interest to William H. In 1888 the business was incorporated under the name of The Johnson Transfer and Fuel Company, with a capital stock of twenty-five thousand dollars. This, however, is merely nominal, as they have a very large surplus. The officers are Robert R., president; James E., vice-president, and William H., secretary and treasurer. They purchased the property where they are now located, and at first had but a small office. They decided, however, to extend their field of operations by dealing in coal, having secured the agency of the mines of Adam Sholl, then of Pekin, but now a member of the well known firm of Sholl Brothers, of Peoria. They purchased property and erected extensive coal sheds and have built up a very extensive business, employing many men and a large number of teams throughout the year. Their business has increased both in volume and importance and they are now the leaders in their line in the city. They also deal in hay and conduct a cooperage business. In order to afford ample facilities for carrying on their varied enterprises they built the west section of their warehouse, a brick structure, thirty-one by eighty feet, three stories and basement. It was completed in the fall of 1890, but in the following March it was found that the quarters were again too small, so they purchased more ground and built another addition, forty-eight by one hundred and eighteen feet, and five stories and basement

in height. This is also of brick, and with the other parts of the buildings constitutes one of the largest and strongest warehouses in central Illinois. The proprietors carry on a regular warehouse and general forwarding business for agricultural implement firms, who store their goods and order them out as needed. When the building was completed in 1892, the company was in debt, but notwithstanding a general financial panic soon came on, they continued to successfully carry on operations, met fully every obligation, and are now enjoying a very liberal patronage, from which they derive an excellent income. They employ twenty-five people and work eighteen teams, have stable room for thirty-five head of horses, and in addition to their mammoth buildings own five city lots. They have purchased fifteen lots located on the C. & A. R. R., where they contemplate erecting other warehouses. Robert R. Johnson is also connected with the Omaha transfer business, which has assumed mammoth proportions, and has enjoyed an excellent patronage in connection with exposition affairs there.

On the 3rd of November, 1881, Mr. Johnson was united in marriage to Miss Fannie M. Merriman, daughter of Henry and Mozelle Merriman, and they now have three children: Frederick B., Mary L. and Jessie Iola. The parents are leading and influential members of the First Presbyterian church, and Mr. Johnson is a member of the session and has also served as trustee. In politics he is a Democrat and has been candidate for alderman. His home is at No. 702 West Mulberry street, where he owns a beautiful residence, and the charm of his hospitality is acknowledged by the many friends of our subject and his esti-



mable wife. In summarizing the events that mark his career, we note that his life record has been closely identified with the history of Bloomington, where he has made his home for forty years. He began his remarkable career here when it was little more than a village, and has grown with its growth until his name and reputation are as far reaching as are those of the city. His life has been one of untiring activity, and has been crowned with a degree of success attained by comparatively few men. He is of the highest type of a business man, and none more than he deserves a fitting recognition among those men whose hardy genius and splendid abilities have achieved results that are the wonder and admiration of their state.

LATTIE G. JONES, who lives on section 16, Towanda township, where he owns a fine farm of two hundred and seven acres of well-improved land, is extensively engaged in stock raising as well as general farming. He was born on the farm where he now resides April 5, 1863, and is the son of Nelson and Eliza (White) Jones, the former a native of Clarke county, Ohio, born April 5, 1826, and a son of Abraham R. and Matilda (Noel) Jones, natives of New York and Kentucky, respectively. Abraham R. Jones came to McLean county in 1856, and died February 11, 1865. His wife survived him a number of years, and died at her home in Towanda, March 7, 1880. They were the parents of ten children, of whom Nelson, the father of our subject, was seventh in order of birth.

Nelson Jones grew to manhood in his native state, and was educated in the common schools. He came to McLean county

in the spring of 1848 and settled in Smith's Grove. In 1849, in partnership with his brother, A. R., he purchased six hundred acres of land in sections 10 and 15, Towanda township. Later another brother, Cyrus, became a partner, and the three brothers engaged in farming and stock raising until 1854, when they divided the land and personal stock between themselves, and each carried on business for himself. Nelson Jones was married March 4, 1857, to Miss Eliza A. White, who was born in Lafayette, Indiana, November 20, 1830, and a daughter of George and Julia (Noel) White, the former a native of New York, and the latter of Ohio. By this union were born five children, as follows: Ward B., of Towanda; Lattie G., the subject of this sketch; Julia, wife of S. R. Hilts, a farmer of Towanda township, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume; Elmetta M., living in Towanda township, and Dr. Mark C., who is a practicing physician of Table Grove, Illinois.

Nelson Jones was one of the most prominent and successful farmers in McLean county, accumulating a large and valuable property, both in personal and real estate. In 1860 he engaged in breeding short horn cattle, founding one of the best herds in the county. He continued to be thus engaged until his death, February 26, 1896. His wife preceded him a few years, dying August 10, 1889. They had many friends in the county, and their death was sincerely mourned, not alone by the family, but by all who knew them.

The subject of this sketch was reared on his father's farm and received his primary education in the public schools of Towanda township, completing his literary studies in Wesleyan University, after which

he took a business course at Evergreen Business College, in Bloomington, from which he graduated in 1885. He commenced his business career in partnership with his brother, Ward B., the two purchasing the herd of short horn cattle owned by their father. After two years he bought his brother's interest, and has since carried it on alone. He has still a good herd on the place and in addition he has also been interested in breeding Clydesdale and roadster horses, in which he has met with a good degree of success. On his place he has a fine flock of Shropshire and Rambowillet sheep, which he raises and sells for breeding purposes. He has also a large and well selected herd of Poland China hogs, which constitute an important part of his business. In the raising of fine stock he has done much for his native county in giving it the excellent reputation it bears throughout the country in this regard. He has spent large sums of money in the improvement of domestic animals, having spared no pains to raise the standard of his herds, buying his breeding animals from the best known herds in the country. He now owns the imported horse, Heirloom, imported by Ogilvie, of Janesville, Wisconsin, and has also in his flock of sheep a number of imported animals.

Mr. Jones' farm is known as the Home Park Place, and is one of the finest farms in McLean county. The house and barn were erected by his father at a cost of about seventeen thousand dollars and are models of convenience and architecture. In politics Mr. Jones gives his support to the Republican party. Fraternally, he is a member of Success Lodge, No. 480, K. P., of Towanda, in which lodge he has held office.

JOHN N. SCOGIN is the well-known baggage master at the Union station in Bloomington, and has been a trusted employe of the Chicago & Alton Railroad since 1891. He is a native of McLean county, born three miles southwest of Bloomington, June 22, 1853, and is a son of Andrew W. and Eliza (Low) Scogin. The father was born in Licking county, Ohio, in 1823, and after the death of the grandfather, Abel Scogin, which occurred in that county, he came with his uncle, Joseph Wakefield, to Blooming Grove, McLean county, Illinois, in 1837, when only fourteen years of age. Here his uncle took up a tract of new land, and in connection with its improvement and cultivation, he worked at the carpenter's trade. Under his direction Mr. Scogin learned the rudiments of that occupation, and later worked on the first Sherman House in Chicago, under Mr. Updyke, who offered him a half block in the heart of the city for his summer's work, but he would not accept it. Returning to Bloomington, he remained here until enlisting for a short time in the Mexican war. On his arrival at Springfield, however, he found it was long-term men that were wanted, so resigned his commission as captain of a company that he might carry out a large contract at Randolph's Grove which he had previously made. He first married Miss Elizabeth Carr, a daughter of Thomas Jefferson Carr, of Randolph's Grove. She died at the end of a year, and he afterward married Miss Eliza Low, of Blooming Grove township, McLean county, a daughter of Nathan Low, one of the earliest pioneers of that locality. After his second marriage Mr. Scogin located in Blooming Grove township and became the owner of four hundred acres of valuable land, on which

he successfully engaged in general farming and stock-raising until his death. The wife and mother, who was a consistent member of the Christian church, passed away in 1863. They left six children, all of whom are still living, namely: Lee, who is living southwest of Bloomington; Jay, a carpenter of St. Louis, Missouri; John, our subject; Frank, who lives on the old homestead with his sister; Hettie, wife of Oled Lash, who own the home farm; and Joseph, who resides near Colorado Springs, Colorado.

John Scogin received a good practical education in the common schools near his boyhood home, and on leaving the farm came to Bloomington, where he embarked in the draying and transfer business for himself at the age of eighteen years. He continued in that line for a number of years, during which time he built up a good business and used three teams. On selling out in 1891, he entered the freight department of the Chicago & Alton Railroad Company, at Bloomington; a year later was advanced to the position of assistant baggage master at the Union station, and in 1898, on the resignation of the baggage master, he was appointed to that position, which he is now so capably and satisfactorily filling. He has charge of the all baggage of the Chicago & Alton, and also the junction part of the Lake Erie & Western, and the Big Four Railroads, and handles more than all the other roads coming into Bloomington put together, as the Chicago & Alton at this place does the largest amount of business in the west outside of St. Louis and Chicago.

In 1873, Mr. Scogin was united in marriage with Miss Nannie Kinzell, of Bloomington, who died in 1895, leaving one daughter,

Dell, now the wife of James M. Hull, of Osawatomie, Kansas. He was again married, January 18, 1899, his second union being with Miss Jennie McEvoy, of Bloomington. They have a pleasant home at No. 1200 West Front street, and attend and support the First Presbyterian church. Socially, Mr. Scogin is a member of Evergreen City Lodge, No. 265, I. O. O. F., and Shabona Tribe, No. 18, I. O. R. M., and has passed through all the chairs of both organizations. He is very popular in business and social circles and wherever known is held in high regard.

MRS. EMILY PRAY is a well-known resident of Empire township, where she owns and successfully manages an excellent farm of five hundred and forty acres on section 7, and in the conduct of her affairs since her husband's death has displayed remarkable business ability. Her course has ever been such as to command the respect and admiration of the entire community, and she has thoroughly demonstrated the fact that a woman is well qualified to carry on a farm successfully.

Mrs. Pray has spent her entire life in McLean county, her birth occurring in Empire township, and she is a representative of one of the most honored and prominent pioneer families, which was founded here in 1835. Her father, James Bishop, was born in Fauquier county, Virginia, April 2, 1809, and was a son of John Bishop, who was born in the same state of English ancestry, and about 1809, removed with his family to Ohio, becoming one of the first settlers of Clarke county, where he spent the remainder of his life.

When a young man James Bishop came



to Illinois, in 1835, and having previously received a good education he engaged in school teaching for a time during the winters in McLean county. Here he entered two hundred and forty acres of land in Empire township, which he was not long in transforming into a good farm. He bought more land from time to time until he owned several hundred acres, and was one of the most active, successful and enterprising farmers of the county, as well as one of its highly respected and popular citizens. Here he married Miss Margaret Cannaday, who was born in Hopkins county, Kentucky, June 15, 1808, a daughter of John Cannaday, also an early settler of McLean county. Mr. Bishop died upon his farm May 24, 1877, and his wife passed away February 7, 1881, being laid to rest by his side in Oak Grove cemetery, where a neat and substantial monument has been erected to their memory. Mrs. Pray is the third in order of birth in their family of five children, two sons and three daughters. The sons, John A. and James Q., both married and settled in McLean county, where the former died March 6, 1896, and the latter on the 1st of the same month. Both left families. Mrs. Pray's sisters are, Mrs. Caroline Campbell and Mrs. Rachel Beckham, both residents of Le Roy.

In the neighborhood where she still resides, Mrs. Pray passed her girlhood. She was first married, February 6, 1862, to William Evans, a native of this county, and they began their domestic life upon a part of the old Bishop homestead, where he died January 4, 1865. There were two children born of this union: Mary, who died in infancy, and Josephine lived to be about six years old, dying January 27, 1870. On the 7th of August, 1877, Mrs. Evans gave her

hand in marriage to LeRoy W. Pray, who was born in Franklin county, Ohio, February 21, 1840, and when a lad of twelve years came with his father, Daniel Pray, to McLean county, in the fall of 1852, locating on a farm in Empire township, where he grew to manhood. In the spring after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Pray located on the farm where she now resides. He was a soldier of the civil war, having enlisted June 16, 1861, in the Eighth Missouri Volunteer Infantry, for three years. He participated in many important engagements, including the battles of Fort Donelson and Shiloh. During a skirmish at the Russell House he was wounded, May 17, 1862, by a gun shot, which temporarily disabled him for duty, and he was confined in the hospital at St. Louis. Later he took part in the battles of Arkansas Post, Jackson, Mississippi, Champion Hills, the siege and capture of Vicksburg, and the battles of Jackson, Chattanooga and Missionary Ridge, besides many lesser engagements and skirmishes. On the expiration of his term of enlistment he was honorably discharged July 7, 1864, and returned to his home in this county. He was twice married, his first wife being Mary Gilbert. There were three children by this marriage, all of whom are now deceased. At one time he went to Nebraska, where he took a claim and engaged in farming for two years, after which he returned to McLean county. He was a most enterprising and progressive farmer and a good business man, and was justly classed among the upright and honorable citizens of Empire township, for he has the confidence and respect of all with whom he came in contact either in business or social life. He was an active and prominent member of the Grand Army Post of Le Roy and was a



Democrat in politics. He died July 7, 1884. They had one son, William Le Roy, who now assists his mother in carrying on the home farm.

Since her husband's death Mrs. Pray has superintended the operation of her farm and her efforts have been crowned with a high degree of success. She has made many improvements upon the place, including the erection of a large and pleasant residence, over which she presides with gracious dignity. She is a faithful member of the Christian church of Le Roy, and is a lady highly respected and esteemed by all who have the pleasure of her acquaintance.

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**ROBERT FLEGEL.** This gentleman worthily illustrates the commonly accepted view of the character of the enterprising German citizen, who came to the west at a time when strong hands and stout hearts were most needed, and putting his shoulder to the wheel gave decided impetus to the car of progress and assisted in the development of one of the richest sections of our glorious country. Although he has only made his home in McLean county since 1883, he has been a resident of central Illinois almost continuously since 1855, and has borne his part in its development and progress.

Mr. Flegel was born in Prussia, Germany, May 18, 1838, a son of Christian and Augusta (Hesse) Flegel, also natives of that country. About 1846 the father came alone to the United States and first located in Rome, New York, where his family joined him a year later. At the end of another year he moved to Cincinnati, where he was engaged in the butcher business two years, during which time he lost his wife, a

son and daughter by cholera. Subsequently he removed to a farm not far from that city, in Butler county, Ohio, and there engaged in agricultural pursuits for three years. In 1855 he drove across the country to Illinois and located in Tazewell county, where after operating rented land for about four years, he purchased a timber tract of fifty acres, which he at once commenced to clear and improve. Soon afterward he bought fifty acres more and kept adding to his farms as his means permitted until he had four hundred acres of valuable land, which he placed under a high state of cultivation and improved with good buildings. Upon that place he spent the remainder of his life, dying there in 1892. Our subject is the only survivor of his first marriage, but by a second union there are three sons and one daughter living.

Robert Flegel was a lad of about nine years when he came to New York, and was fourteen when the family located in Tazewell county, Illinois, where he grew to manhood. He is almost wholly self-educated. During the dark days of the Rebellion he manifested his love for his adopted country by enlisting in 1862, in Company A, One Hundred Eighth Illinois Volunteer Infantry for three years; but was soon transferred to Company K. He remained with his regiment one year, participating in the battles of Arkansas Post, Yazoo River, Haynes Bluff, and the siege of Vicksburg, and then went with his command to La Grange, Tennessee, where he was placed on detached duty with the First Missouri Artillery, with which he served until the expiration of his term of enlistment. He took part in the battles of Resaca and Kennesaw mountain; all of the engagements around Atlanta and the siege of that city; and was

with Sherman on his march to the sea and through the Carolina campaign, which included the battles of Goldsboro, Charlotte and Columbus. Later he was ordered to rejoin his regiment, and from Newburn, North Carolina, proceeded to New York City, thence to Cincinnati, down the river to Memphis, from thence to Mobile, finally reaching his regiment at Montgomery, Alabama. He was discharged soon afterward and returned north. After being mustered out at Chicago he returned to his home in Tazewell county, where he remained with his father for two years.

The first farm Mr. Flegel ever owned was a tract of eighty acres near Tremont, of which only a few acres had been broken at the time of his purchase, and a small house erected thereon. For two years he devoted his attention to improving and cultivating his place, and on selling it in 1867 went to Douglas county, Kansas, where he bought one hundred and twenty acres, on which he built a house, erected fences and made other improvements, but finally sold at a good profit and returned to Illinois. With his father he purchased the old J. D. Vawter farm of two hundred and eighty acres on Mackinaw river, and successfully engaged in farming there for eight years, during which time he made some permanent improvements on the place. After a residence there of three years he purchased his father's interest in the farm, but in 1883 sold it and came to McLean county, buying a run-down farm of three hundred and eighty acres in Empire township. There was an old house and log stable, which he has since replaced by a commodious and comfortable residence and large barn, and he has also built other outbuildings, repaired the fences and made many other

improvements which add greatly to its value and attractive appearance. He had bought more land adjoining and now has in his home farm four hundred and thirty acres, while his landed possessions now aggregate seven hundred and twenty acres. This includes a well improved farm of one hundred and twenty acres in West township, and two other farms in Empire township, of ninety-five and eighty-five acres, respectively.

In Tazewell county Mr. Flegel was married, in 1873, to Miss Mary Freidinger, who was born in this state of German parentage, and eight children bless this union, namely: Henry, Edward, Walter, Louis, Clarence, Harry, Ida and Clara, all at home. Since casting his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1860, Mr. Flegel has been an ardent Republican in politics, but has never aspired to office. Socially, he is an honored member of the Grand Army Post of Le Roy. He has now been a resident of Illinois for forty-four years. His life affords an excellent example to the young in that he commenced life for himself without money, but having a determination to succeed he industriously applied himself until he has acquired a handsome property, and has also won an enviable reputation for fair dealing. He is widely and favorably known and has a host of friends throughout Tazewell and McLean counties.

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JOHN H. BOSSINGHAM, a prominent representative of the agricultural interests of Allin township, is a native of McLean county, born near Stanford, February 3, 1862, and is a son of John Bossingham, who was born in England, in 1819, and in that country engaged in farming until his

emigration to America in 1850. He landed at New York, where he remained for a year, and then went to Wisconsin, spending four years upon a rented farm near Milwaukee, after which he came to McLean county, Illinois, and purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Allin township. Here he successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising, and upon his place made some valuable and useful improvements, including the erection of a comfortable residence and good outbuildings. He also tiled his farm, and continued to reside thereon until called from this life, November 6, 1880. He took an active interest in all enterprises calculated to advance the public welfare, and was one of the best and most highly-esteemed citizens of his community. For several years he efficiently served as road commissioner in his township. In 1846, he wedded Miss Mary Weldon, also a native of England, who was born in 1819, and was of old English stock. They became the parents of seven children, five of whom are still living.

John H. Bossingham, of this review, is the youngest of the family. He was educated in the public schools near his childhood home and assisted in the labors of the farm, remaining with his parents upon the old homestead. After his father's death he managed the farm for his mother, who still finds a pleasant home with him. He inherited from his father one hundred acres of excellent farming land, which he has placed under a high state of cultivation, and throughout his entire business career has devoted his energies to farming and stock raising and has met with most gratifying success.

On the 4th of March, 1886, Mr. Bossingham married Miss Effie Brown, a native of

Canada and a daughter of John and Mary Brown, now of Bloomington, whose ancestors were of English origin. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Bossingham is brightened by an interesting family. Of the seven children born to them, four are now living, namely: Pearl and Herman, who are attending the district school near their home; and Elmo and Melvin, at home. Being of a reserved disposition, Mr. Bossingham has never mingled in politics, but gives his entire time and attention to his family and his business interests. Success has crowned his well-directed efforts, and though comparatively a young man, he has already secured a comfortable competence.

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EDMUND J. ROWLEY, a prominent contractor and builder of Bloomington, Illinois, was born May 5, 1849, on the Sciota river, seven miles from Columbus, Ohio, and is a son of James Madison and Emily (Bailey) Rowley, who removed to Le Roy, McLean county, Illinois, when our subject was a child. The father, who was a shoemaker by trade, offered his services to his country during the civil war, enlisting in Company I, Thirty-ninth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, under Capt. H. N. Phillips, of Le Roy. After three years of arduous and faithful service on southern battle-fields, during which time he was home but once on a furlough, he contracted yellow fever and died at Newburn, North Carolina, the day his time expired. The mother still continues to reside in Le Roy. Besides our subject she has two children: Mrs. Elizabeth Cotterman, of Bloomington; and William A., of Le Roy.

Reared in Le Roy, Edmund J. Rowley acquired his education in its public schools.



At the age of sixteen he came to Bloomington to learn the carpenter's trade with Mr. Sproul, but completed his apprenticeship with Scott & Stillhamer, at the age of twenty-one. He then worked for different contractors as a journeyman for a number of years. In 1885 he was appointed street commissioner by the city council, and during his service in that office West Washington and North Main streets were paved, and other paving and improvements made. In 1887 he was appointed superintendent of the water works, succeeding M. X. Chuse. As that was a dry year more water was needed than could be furnished by the old well, and five others, six inches in diameter and from sixty to seventy feet deep, were drilled. These gave an ample supply of water until recently, and were directly connected with the pumps at the pumping station. This greatly improved the water system.

On retiring from that office, Mr. Rowley secured the position of superintendent of building construction of all the private work of Mifflin Bell, government architect of Cook county. He also built a large factory for R. P. Smith & Sons in Chicago, and in Springfield built the Illinois National Bank building, six stories in height, at a cost of one hundred and thirty-one thousand dollars; the Franklin Life building, five stories in height, for seventy-eight thousand dollars; and a residence for J. Otis Humphries, for ten thousand dollars. After thirty months spent in Springfield he again went to Chicago, but finding business dull there he returned to Bloomington, where he owned property and where he has since been engaged in contracting and building. He has erected many fine residences in the city, and gives employment to a number of

men. He has built two good houses for himself on East Monroe street.

May 25, 1871, Mr. Rowley married Miss Sarah Hullinger, of Bloomington, a daughter of Jeremiah and Sarah (White) Hullinger. She is a member of the Baptist church. She has taken a prominent part in the Woman's Relief Corps of Bloomington and the state, having held many of the positions of that society. She is also identified with the local W. C. T. U. and has done much toward furthering the interests of temperance. And socially Mr. Rowley belongs to Remembrance Lodge, No. 77, I. O. O. F., in which he is past grand, and is also connected with Jesse Fell Lodge, No. 164, K. P., and New Home Camp, M. W. A. As a Republican he has always taken an active part in local politics, has been a member of different committees and served as judge and clerk of elections. As a citizen he ever stands ready to discharge every duty devolving upon him, and his career has been such as to win for him the confidence and respect of all with whom he has come in contact, either in public or private life.

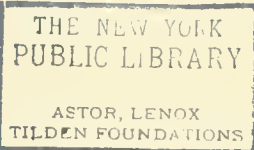
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**A**DAM ZOOK is one of the leading and influential citizens of Carlock, who through his own unaided efforts in life has secured a comfortable competence and is now able to lay aside all business cares and live retired, enjoying the fruits of former toil. He was born in Juniata county, Pennsylvania, October 5, 1829, a son of Yost and Susanna (Hostetter) Zook, also natives of Pennsylvania. His paternal grandfather, Rev. Jacob Zook, a minister of the Mennonite church, spent his entire life in that state as did also his wife, who bore the maiden name of Catherine Fisher. In their family





ADAM ZOOK.



were two sons, Yost, the father of our subject, and Benjamin, who remained on the old homestead in Pennsylvania; and three daughters, all of whom remained in the east.

Yost Zook was born August 7, 1803, and died November 10, 1888, while his wife was born in December, 1805, and died June 8, 1892. While resident in his native state he engaged in farming and also in the manufacture of potteryware. Coming to McLean county, Illinois, in 1850, he located first in White Oak township, but a year later removed to Dry Grove township, when he entered one-half section of land and made his home until 1870. Selling that place, he went to Moultrie county, Illinois, where the following five years were passed, and then returned to this county. He bought a farm in Dry Grove township and there spent the remainder of his life, engaged in agricultural pursuits. In religious faith he was a Mennonite and in politics a stanch Republican. He voted for William Henry Harrison, the Whig candidate and in after years for his grandson, Benjamin Harrison. His family consisted of four children, three sons and one daughter, namely: Catherine, wife of Nicholas King, of Dry Grove township; Adam, our subject; John, a resident of Cherokee county, Kansas; and Jacob, of Dry Grove township.

At the age of twenty-one years, Adam Zook started out to make his own way in the world with a cash capital of but eighteen dollars. This he invested in a set of harness, and he bought a team and wagon on time. For seven years he rented land of Alexander McCullough in Dry Grove township and engaged in farming. During that time he invested what money he could spare in cattle, buying two or three head at a time, as there

was plenty of pasture on the open prairie. At the end of seven years he moved to a half-section of land owned by his father, which the family operated together for some time, and during the first season he broke forty acres of wild land. On their removal to Moultrie county, he there purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, to the improvement and cultivation of which he devoted his energies for two years. Returning to McLean county at the end of that time, he bought one hundred and forty acres in Dry Grove township, where he continued to carry on operations as a general farmer until the fall of 1891, when he built his present comfortable home in Carlock and has since lived retired at that place. Besides his own residence he owns other town property and is one of the substantial citizens of the place.

In September, 1875, Mr. Zook married Mrs. Miriam (Yoder) Koffman, widow of Jonas Koffman. She was a native of Pennsylvania, born in Juniata county, October 30, 1829, and was a daughter of Joseph Yoder. Our subject has been called upon to mourn the loss of his estimable wife, who died on Thanksgiving Day, 1898. They had no children of their own, but reared Noel Burns, son of Jonathan Burns. He was left motherless at the age of two years and has since made his home with our subject.

Religiously Mr. Zook is a consistent member of the Mennonite church, and politically is a pronounced Republican—one that takes a deep and commendable interest in political affairs and has most creditably and satisfactorily filled several township offices of honor and trust. He is highly respected and esteemed by all who know him and is certainly deserving of prominent mention in the history of his adopted county.

GEORGE J. ALEXANDER has for fifteen years successfully engaged in business in Bloomington as a dealer in windmills, pumps, well drills, etc., and enjoys a large and profitable trade. Throughout his career of continued and far-reaching usefulness his duties have been performed with the greatest care, and business interests have been so managed as to win the confidence of the public and the prosperity which should always attend honorable effort.

Mr. Alexander was born at what is now Independence, Richland county, Ohio, October 30, 1854, and is a son of John and Mary (Phipps) Alexander, the former a native of Virginia, the latter of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania. At an early day the father removed with his parents to Ohio, where he grew to manhood and later engaged in farming and also conducted a general store at Independence. Subsequently he came to McLean county, Illinois, bringing with him his wife and eight children, and purchased a tract of improved land four miles south of Bloomington, on which he engaged in agricultural pursuits until called from this life on the 19th of May, 1865. Prior to the birth of our subject, he lived twelve years in Missouri, and while in that state and in Ohio filled the office of justice of the peace in a most acceptable manner. His wife died in 1888. Both were earnest and consistent members of the Christian church, and took quite an active and prominent part in church work.

The subject of this sketch was educated in the country schools and grew to manhood upon the home farm, which he rented and successfully operated for some time prior to his marriage. On the 26th of February, 1879, he wedded Miss Maggie G.

Owen, who lived in the same neighborhood in this county, and is a daughter of Martin J. Owen, and to them have been born two children, Cora and Earl, both at home.

After his marriage, Mr. Alexander removed to a separate farm and successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits for five years. He then came to Bloomington and embarked in his present business at 214 East Front street, where he remained two years, since which time he has carried on operations at 204 South Centre street. His patronage comes from a territory many miles in extent, covering McLean and adjoining counties, and he has given employment to a large number of men. The honorable business policy which he has ever followed has brought to him prosperity. He is methodical and systematic, and the plans which he has pursued commend themselves to the judgment and respect of all. Both he and his wife hold membership in the Christian church, and their home at No. 309 South Centre street is the center of a cultured society circle.

JOSEPH M. WEAKLY, who has been actively engaged in the practice of law in the city of Lexington for almost a quarter of a century, was born in Licking county, Ohio, September 3, 1843, and is a son of Thornton and Barbara (Jenkins) Weakly, the former a native of Virginia, born May 16, 1800, and the latter a native of the same state, of German parents, born in 1801. The father of Thornton Weakly was of English birth and an early settler of Virginia.

Thornton Weakly grew to manhood in his native state, where he received a limited common-school education. In 1838, he



moved to Licking county, Ohio, where he engaged in farming, and there remained until 1852, when he came to McLean county, locating in Hudson township. After a residence there of two years he moved into Gridley township, where he purchased a farm of one hundred acres, and there remained until 1859, when he sold out, and moving to the village of Lexington, engaged in the grocery business in which he continued until 1865, when he sold out and lived retired until his death, which occurred June 5, 1885. He was twice married, and by his first wife there were born six children—Wyatt, William, Benjamin, Jane, Caroline and Matilda. On the death of his first wife he was united in marriage to Barbara Jenkins, and by this union there were born seven children: John, living in Lexington; Pheboe Ann, who married James O. Barnard, and died in Kansas; Henry, residing in Kansas; Thomas B., living in Iroquois county, Illinois; Mary, wife of John W. Simpson, and residing in Oklahoma Territory; Joseph M., our subject; and Martha, who died at the age of two years. Thornton Weakly in politics was a Democrat, and religiously was a member of the Christian church, while his last wife was a member of the Baptist church. She died January 5, 1861.

The subject of this sketch received his primary education in the schools of his native county and those of McLean county, to which he came with his father in 1852. In 1862 he became a student in Eureka College, where he continued until in April, 1864, when he enlisted in the One Hundred and Forty-fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was mustered into the service at Springfield. With his regiment he went to Rolla, Missouri, and for about five months was en-

gaged in guard duty. He was discharged from the service, October 5, 1864, and returning home he engaged in teaching in the public schools of McLean county.

While engaged in teaching Mr. Weakly borrowed law books and took up the study of law. He continued his readings until 1871, when he went to Mt. Vernon, and before the supreme court passed a successful examination and was admitted to practice in the courts of the state. He continued teaching, however, for five years after passing examination, in the meantime keeping up his studies and taking such cases as came to him and which would not interfere with his school duties. In 1876 he began active practice in Lexington, and where he has since continued with unqualified success. While studying and teaching, he would often in the early morning go to the log stable, and climbing up into the hay mow with his Blackstone and Kent's Commentaries, as he expressed it, would literally pound out of them the law.

For about five years he was in active practice with Shelton Smith, under the firm name of Weakly & Smith, since which time he has been alone. In 1868, he began the insurance business in connection with his other duties, and still continues in that line, representing at present the Phoenix of Hartford, National of Hartford, the German of Freeport, the Rockford, the North British and Mercantile of London and Edinburg. He has also engaged in the real estate and loan business for some years, loaning on town and farm property.

On the 21st of October, 1871, Mr. Weakly was united in marriage with Miss Louisa J. Waybright, a native of Virginia, born February 23, 1845, and daughter of Miles Waybright, also a native of the Old

Dominion, who came with his family to McLean county in 1852, and who located in Old Town township. To our subject and wife four children were born. Shelton died December 17, 1897, while serving as deputy county clerk. He was formerly engaged as station agent for the Chicago & Alton Railroad at Blackstone, Illinois. Hattie N. married Wilbur Thomas, and they reside in Bloomington. He is a good musician and the leader of the choir in the Unitarian church at Bloomington. Minnie is attending the schools of Lexington. Lawrence Weldon, who was named in honor of Judge Weldon, of Bloomington, who was associated for a time with our subject, is also attending the schools of Lexington.

In politics Mr. Weakly is a Republican. For many years he has represented his party in county and state conventions, and has always exerted a good influence in those bodies. He has been township clerk, city clerk, and for twenty years has been city attorney. Fraternally he is a member of McLean Lodge, No. 206, I. O. O. F., and also of the Knights of Pythias. In religion he is a member of the Christian church, as are also his wife and children. As a citizen, he is enterprising and progressive, ever ready to lend a helping hand to every enterprise calculated to be of assistance to his adopted city and county. He has the confidence and esteem of the entire community in which he has so long resided.

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JAMES GOODHEART, a leading contractor and builder of Bloomington and one of its representative and highly-respected citizens, is a native of McLean county, born in Dawson township, March 30, 1830, and is a son of William R. and

Sarah Ann (Clouse) Goodheart, honored pioneers of the county. The father was born near Edinburg, Scotland, December 1, 1780, and had a most eventful and interesting career. The name of Goodheart is probably a corruption of Goddard. Rather than remain under the English rule, the father, from choice, went to Holland, which was then in a political turmoil over gaining a republic, at the age of fourteen years, in which country the grandfather lived and died. The former received a very limited education, and at an early age was bound out to learn the stonemason's trade. He had nearly completed his apprenticeship, when a difficulty arose between himself and master, and he left and went to sea as a sailor on a merchantman, which was captured soon afterward by French privateers and he was pressed into the French naval service. He was in the military service of France for seven years, a part of which time was spent on sea and a part on land. He was with Napoleon in Italy and in the Russian campaign, where he witnessed the destruction of Moscow. While in the French service he had one leg broken and was nearly disemboweled. After receiving his discharge he found himself without home, friends, or even a nation, and under these circumstances he enlisted in the English navy and was sent to Lake Erie, as this was during our second war with England—that of 1812. He was in charge of a gun during the battle with Commodore Perry, and had in his command three Indians, one of whom he met many years later at Blooming Grove, Illinois. During that engagement Mr. Goodheart was captured, and not wishing to be exchanged into the English service, he, with others, made his escape the first night, and after some days of hard travel, arrived at

Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where he enlisted in General Harrison's command. While on his way to join the American army, the war ended before he was mustered in, and the company disbanded without discharge papers. He then returned to Lancaster. He was a fine swordsman, and once challenged a man who claimed to be an expert and was giving an exhibition of his skill in McLean county, and knocked the sword out of the showman's hand.

At Franklin, Ohio, August 2, 1814, William R. Goodheart married Miss Sarah Ann Clouse, whose parents were both natives of Germany. She was born in 1791, and died July 3, 1872. At the time of her death ten of the eleven children born to them were still living. The father died in Bloomington April 3, 1842. During his residence in Ohio, he came to McLean county, Illinois, and took up a claim, and in order to pay for it he had to go to New Orleans on a flat boat, the trip requiring six months. He again had his leg broken in 1819, and during his illness he was converted under the preaching of Elder Wright and united with the Methodist Episcopal church, in the work of which he ever afterward took an active and prominent part. He became a licensed exhorter but refused full papers as a minister, believing that as an exhorter he could do more good. He canvassed this county completely as an evangelist and was one of the most potent workers of all the pioneer preachers in this region. His home was always the stopping place for the circuit riders. With John Hendrix and Jesse Frankeberger, he took a most active part in founding the First Methodist Episcopal church of Bloomington, in which he served as class-leader and steward, and filled other offices. Mr. Goodheart continued to make

his home in Ohio until the fall of 1824, when he moved to Pleasant Hill, McLean county, Illinois and built a cabin, but on account of some annoyance from the Indians, he left that locality and settled on the southwest outskirts of Bloomington, building a cabin where Heafer's tile yard now stands. There he manufactured the first brick ever made in the county, his son tending the mud and his daughter carrying away the brick when molded. With these bricks he afterward built the chimneys for the early settlers. He located here when the county was known as Fayette county, and the first claim he made, he sold to a Mr. Kennedy who had entered it as a claim jumper and who gave Mr. Goodheart three hundred dollars for his right. This was the first money of any amount that the latter ever possessed. He next moved to Old Town and took up a claim, which he soon sold. Returning to the northern part of Bloomington, he secured a claim of eighty acres, and near the present site of Captain Burnham's residence, he erected a house by setting slabs into the ground and roofing it. This place he traded to William Gorham for land north and west of Bloomington, where Alexander Bryant now lives, and on eventually selling that farm he came to Bloomington, locating in the southern part of the city, where he made his home until his death on the 3rd of April, 1842. He took an active part in the election of William Henry Harrison as president of the United States. He was quite a linguist, speaking several different languages, and was a man honored, respected and esteemed by all who knew him.

James Goodheart, of this review, attended the early schools of Bloomington until his father's death when he was twelve years old, but after that he did not resume



his studies until he was nineteen, as he was obliged to assist his mother in carrying on the home farm, as the other children had all married and left the parental roof. When seventeen he went to Meredosia, Morgan county, Illinois, where he worked with his brother at the blacksmith's trade for one year. On his return to Bloomington he learned the mason's trade with Adam Guthrie, and soon commenced contracting and building on his own account, doing most of the work on the Phoenix block, after the fire of 1855. Since then there has scarcely been a block in the city upon which he has not worked.

On the 8th of August, 1862, during the dark days of the civil war, Mr. Goodheart enlisted in Company A, Ninety-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and from the camp at Springfield, Illinois, went to Raleigh, Missouri, and to Springfield, that state, and on through the Ozark mountains to the Wilson creek battle grounds. With his command he proceeded to Fayetteville, Arkansas, passing over the Pea Ridge battle ground at Elkhorn Tavern, and was in his first engagement at Prairie Grove. He next went to Van Buren and from there returned to St. Louis, and from there to Vicksburg, and during the siege at that place was south of the city, his command working their way toward the fort inch by inch and being under fire night and day. The officers determined to capture a rifle pit which kept picking off their men, and our subject was selected with the one hundred men chosen to perform this task. They moved up close to the place in the night, crawling a half mile, and succeeded in capturing it. With his regiment Mr. Goodheart next went to Port Hudson, where they remained a month and then went into camp at Carrollton,

Louisiana, in the midst of an orange, lemon and pecan grove. From there they went to Morganza, where they met Dick Taylor and his command and took part in a lively engagement in the night, during which our subject had his blanket shot off his shoulders. After this the regiment retreated for eleven miles but he was too ill to go with them. He was found in the afternoon by the surgeon and ordered to the boat. After walking four or five miles his major, A. T. Briscoe, gave him his horse and he rode the remainder of the way. He was ill for some time and was in the invalid corps at Carrollton and Factor's Press, New Orleans, until December, 1863, during which time he often heard Dr. J. P. Newman preach at the Carondelet Street Church, of that city. He next went to Algiers, a detached camp, and was promoted to orderly sergeant in command of the detachment of eighty-seven men. Going aboard the transport E. L. Clark, he went to Indianola, Texas, but they were not allowed to land, and returned to New Orleans on the Crescent, landing at Port Isabel. Mr. Goodheart was left on the transport with the sutler's supplies, and next went to Brownsville, Texas, arriving there on the 26th of December, 1863. He remained in that state until the following July, during which time he first saw a man shot for desertion. As a civil engineer under Major Hamilton, he had command of a gang of bricklayers at work on Fort Brown from the 1st of April until leaving that place, and while there his captain was court-martialed and discharged. Mr. Goodheart returned to New Orleans and Fort Morgan by the old transport Cape Dale, and swinging under their guns landed at Fort Gaines, near by, the day after Farragut won his great victory. With his command



he next went up Mobile bay for six miles and was one of the first to land at the mouth of Fish river. Then commenced a siege lasting fourteen days, during which the Union troops dug their way in a zigzag ditch right under Fort Morgan. Here Mr. Goodheart took the scurvy and saw no more active service except in the ambulance corps at Pascagoula and Spanish Fort. He was at the latter place at the time of President Lincoln's assassination. From there his detachment went to Mobile, and he was ordered to Galveston, Texas, with one man, one ambulance and two mules. After that he was ordered aboard the transport Lone Star and landed at Pier, six miles south of Houston, on the Santa Fe road. He next went with his detachment and the Twenty-third Iowa Volunteer Infantry to Columbus, Texas, where he remained until July, 1865, when he was ordered back to be mustered out at New Orleans, and from there proceeded to Cairo, Illinois. The regiment was highly honored in many ways after their return home, to which it was justly entitled.

Mr. Goodheart commenced working by the day at his trade for A. L. Cox, with the understanding that as soon as the outstanding contracts were fulfilled that he was to be admitted to a partnership in the business, which was done at the end of six weeks, and for a number of years business was carried on under the firm name of Cox & Goodheart. After the partnership was dissolved, Mr. Goodheart took the contract to build the Soldiers' Orphan Home at Normal, and in this he met with excellent success. He continued contracting until 1874, when he was elected sheriff of McLean county through no effort on his part. At the time he found that his father's ex-

tensive acquaintance throughout the county was of great benefit to him. He assumed the duties of the office on the 6th of December, 1874, and proved a most competent and satisfactory official. Later he served for two years as United States deputy marshal, and also met with most excellent success in detective work. Since then he has devoted his entire time and attention to contracting and building, and on all sides may be seen evidence of his skill in his chosen occupation. He is now the owner of considerable real estate, although he lost his farm of one hundred and sixty acres in this county while in the army.

On the 26th of August, 1852, Mr. Goodheart was united in marriage with Miss Catherine O. Fordice, who was born and reared in Bloomington, her father having come here from Nova Scotia at an early day. Of the twelve children born to them eight are still living, namely: Irene, wife of James Rundle; Luke, a merchant of Denver, Colorado, who is married and has two children; Palmer Lincoln, of Chicago, who is married and has one child; John, a physician of Lexington, McLean county, who is married and has two children; Jesse, an artist of Bloomington, who is married and has one son; James, of Bloomington; Josephine, wife of Charles Marquis, of Denver, Colorado; and Benjamin, who is now attending law school. Of those deceased Wertie died at the age of ten years. Mr. and Mrs. Goodheart have for many years been members of the First Methodist Episcopal church of Bloomington, in which he has held every office except that of licensed preacher. He had charge of the chapel for three years, was superintendent of the Sunday-school at Twin Grove for the same length of time, and of

the West Chestnut Street Sunday-school for a year. For a number of years he was a member of Bloomington Lodge, No. 43, F. & A. M., but is not active in that fraternity now. He belongs to W. T. Sherman Post, G. A. R., in which he is serving as chaplain. Mr. Goodheart stands to-day in his mature years a strong man, strong in the consciousness of well-spent years, strong to plan and perform, strong in his credit and good name, and a worthy example for young men to pattern after.

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JOHN BAREMORE, who resides on a farm adjoining the village of Downs, in Downs township, and which was originally the old home place of John Price, which was entered from the government in 1833, has been a resident of the county since 1854. He was born in Green county, Pennsylvania, July 28, 1837, and there remained until he was seventeen years old, in the meantime receiving a fair common-school education. In 1854 he was employed to assist in driving a flock of sheep from eastern Ohio to McLean county, Illinois, and arriving here he formed a good impression of the country and decided to remain. He first found employment with the Illinois Central Railroad Company in the construction of fences along the line of the road south of Bloomington, after which he was employed by William Orendorff and sons in farm labor, and remained with them seven years.

On the 28th of October, 1860, Mr. Baremore was united in marriage with Miss Caroline Orendorff, who was born and reared in McLean county, and daughter of Thomas Orendorff, formerly from South Carolina, and who was numbered among

the early settlers of the county. By this union three children have been born: Lue, now the wife of G. G. Dooley, a farmer of Downs township; Lon, who is single and remaining at home; and Ray, married, and residing on the home farm.

After his marriage Mr. Baremore rented a farm in Bloomington township and there remained for eighteen years. He then bought the place where he now resides, consisting of one hundred and forty-nine acres. The place was one of the oldest in the neighborhood, and was a well-known farm. Since coming into the possession of Mr. Baremore many improvements have been made. He has built two large and neat residences, good barns and outbuildings, and otherwise improved the farm, thus adding to its value.

Originally, Mr. Baremore was a Democrat, and his first presidential vote was cast for the "Little Giant," Stephen A. Douglas, and he continued to vote with that party until 1896, when he voted for William McKinley. He has frequently served as a delegate to the various county and state conventions of his party, and has always endeavored to advance the best interests of the party. In local positions he has served as assessor of his township, and was road commissioner for nine consecutive years. He has also served as school director for a number of years, and has been chairman of the board. His interest in the public schools has been such as he could not begrudge the time spent in the endeavor to secure good schools and good teachers. Mr. Baremore himself is connected with no church, but his wife is a member of the Presbyterian church.

Coming to this county in his youth, without means or personal influence, Mr.

Baremore has quietly gone on his way, attending to his business interests, the result being that he can look back over a life well spent, and with the satisfaction of knowing that whatever success has attended him has been on account of his own merits, with the assistance of a faithful wife who has been a true helpmeet to him. Forty-five years residence among a people will show what is in a man, and the many friends of Mr. Baremore will testify to his manly qualities and worth as a citizen.

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**J**OHAN MCCONNELL, an honored and highly respected citizen of Le Roy, now living a retired life, was for almost forty years prominently identified with the agricultural interests of this county and bore an active and prominent part in its early development and upbuilding. As a business man he was ever progressive, energetic and reliable, and his well directed efforts have been crowned with success, making him one of the most substantial citizens of his community.

Mr. McConnell was born in Hamilton county, Ohio, April 9, 1832, and is of Scotch-Irish extraction, his ancestors having removed from Scotland to Ireland at an early day and some years later to the new world. They located in Pennsylvania and were among the early settlers of that state. There the grandfather of our subject, William McConnell, Sr., was born. The father, William McConnell, was born April 12, 1778, and reared in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, and there married Miss Catherine A. Lafever, also a native of that county and a daughter of Miner Lafever, who in later years became a resident of Knox county, Ohio. Soon after

his marriage Mr. McConnell removed to Knox county, but after living there for a time he returned to Pennsylvania, and on again going to Ohio settled in Hamilton county, at North Bend, where he cleared and improved a farm. He owned flat-boats which he run down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, carrying not only his own farm produce, but also that which he bought of others. He was a good business man and quite a politician, giving his influence and support to the old Whig party, for whose interest he labored untiringly. He was a neighbor and great personal friend of General W. H. Harrison, whom he supported for the presidency. He was a soldier of the war of 1812 and was given a land warrant in recognition of his services. He bought and improved several farms in Hamilton county, Ohio, also lived for a time in Butler county, that state, and spent several years in Dearborn county, Indiana. Subsequently he bought a partialty improved tract of four hundred acres of land in Wabash county, Indiana, and on selling that returned to Hamilton county, Ohio, where he lived retired at the home of a daughter until called from this life October 2, 1876, at the ripe old age of nearly eighty-eighty years. While he took an active part in politics he never cared for official honors, though he served a number of years as justice of the peace in a most commendable manner. His wife died near Connersville, Indiana, and he was laid to rest by her side. Of the twelve children born to them one died in infancy, and with the exception of three all are now deceased. Those living are John, our subject; Mrs. T. L. Buck, of Le Roy, Illinois; and Mrs. Catherine Lafever, a widow, of Hiawatha, Brown county, Kansas.



The boyhood and youth of John McConnell was passed in Ohio and Indiana, and he assisted his father in opening up and improving several farms. His primary education was obtained in the common schools and was supplemented by several terms attendance at Farmers College, College Hill, Ohio—quite a noted school near Cincinnati. In 1855, he first came to McLean county, Illinois, on a prospecting tour with his father and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 35, Downs township, where his uncle bought a half section. Our subject then returned to Ohio and completed his education. In 1857 he located upon his land, his first house here being a plank shanty, and to the cultivation and improvement of this place he at once turned his attention. That winter and for several winters following he engaged in teaching school, and he acted as clerk of the first meeting called for the purpose of organizing Downs township.

At first Mr. McConnell lived alone upon his farm, but on the 17th of June, 1862, he was married in this county to Miss Martha E. Buck, a native of Le Roy and a daughter of Squire Hiram Buck, one of the first settlers of the county, having come here from Ohio in 1836. To our subject and his wife were born three children, but Anna Belle, the eldest, died at the age of eighteen years. The sons, Hiram E. and William M., twins, are well educated—young men, who attended the Wesleyan University and the Bloomington Business College, and are now successfully operating the Rural Ranch farm in Downs township. William M. married Maud Luella Gilmore, May 11, 1899.

Mr. and Mrs. McConnell began their domestic life upon his farm, where he has

erected two residences, the latter, a large and substantial one, being one of the best in the township. He also built large barns and other outbuildings, which are among the finest in the locality. He has purchased more land from time to time, and now owns and controls nearly eight hundred acres, divided into four well-improved and valuable farms, which are known as the Rural Ranch farm of Downs township; Fern Bank farm, a summer resort in Empire township; Hazle Dell farm, a timber tract in Empire township; and Level Dale farm, mostly in Downs township. In 1894 he bought a place in Le Roy, known as Pine Wood, has rebuilt and remodeled the residence, making of it a good home, and there he expects to spend the remainder of his life in ease and quiet, surrounded by all the comforts which make life worth the living.

Politically Mr. McConnell has been a lifelong Republican and took an active part in the Lincoln campaign. He was personally acquainted with the Harrison family in Ohio, including ex-President Benjamin Harrison. He takes an active interest in local politics; was elected highway commissioner at the second election after the formation of Downs township; was assessor two years; and supervisor for five consecutive years, during which time he served on a number of important committees. He was one of the most prominent members of the honorable county board, has ever made a faithful and efficient officer, and has been an influential delegate to numerous county conventions. He has been township trustee of schools, and since coming to Le Roy assisted in Fair Association, of which he was president for two years. He has borne an active and prominent part in the up-



building and development of his adopted county, has contributed to the erection and support of all the churches of Le Roy, and has given liberally to all enterprises calculated to prove of public benefit. As one of the most valued and useful citizens of the community and an honored pioneer, he is worthy of the high regard in which he is uniformly held.

JOHN A. TUTHILL, M. D., is one of the successful physicians and surgeons of McLean county, and a prominent resident of Le Roy. He has much natural ability, but is withal a close student and believes thoroughly in the maxim "there is no excellence without labor." His devotion to the duties of his profession therefore, combined with a comprehensive understanding of the principles of the science of medicine, has made him a most successful and able practitioner, whose prominence is well deserved.

The Doctor was born in Miami county, Ohio, March 21, 1855, and traces his ancestry back to John Tuthill, the Pilgrim, who came to the new world from Norfolk-shire, England in 1639, land at New Haven, Connecticut. He, with thirteen other families, founded the first English settlement in New York, on Long Island. From his second son Joshua, we trace the line in direct descent to our subject through Joshua, Jr., Daniel and Samuel, all of whom were born on Long Island; Captain John, the grandfather of our subject; and Dr. John W., the father.

Captain John Tuthill was born on Long Island, in 1795, and was a member of the Fourth New York Artillery in the war of 1812, being stationed a part of the time in

New York harbor, and later at Fort McHenry, Baltimore, Maryland, when the British stormed that battery and Francis S. Keys wrote his celebrated song—the Star Spangled Banner. In 1830 Captain Tuthill removed from New York to Ohio and settled in Cincinnati, but soon afterward located in Darke county, where he pre-empted one hundred and sixty acres of land. He had previously learned the silversmith's trade in the basement of the old Federal building in New York city, where Washington was first inaugurated, and later followed the same in Cincinnati and Dayton, Ohio. He reared his family on a farm in Darke county and became one of the prominent citizens of that locality. He was commissioned captain of a company in the Ohio militia, by Governor Shannon, and while living in New York he purchased a sword of a German officer, who was also a captain and had used the weapon in the battle of Waterloo. He used the sword while acting as captain in the Ohio state militia. This sword is now in the possession of our subject.

Dr. John W. Tuthill, father of our subject, was born in Hamilton county, Ohio, in 1832, but was reared in Darke county. He was well educated, having attended Antioch College, then under the direction of Horace Mann, the great educator of his day. He also learned the carpenter's trade, at which he worked for several years in early life. Subsequently he took up the study of medicine at the Cincinnati Eclectic Medical College, where he was graduated, having finished the prescribed course after service in the civil war. In 1857 he removed to Farmer City, Illinois, and at that place he enlisted in 1861 in Company F, Second Illinois Cavalry. From private he

was promoted to first sergeant and was orderly to General McClellan during the battle of Shiloh. He remained in the service for four years, and with the western army took part in many engagements in Tennessee, Kentucky and Mississippi, including the battle of Vicksburg. At the close of the war he was honorably discharged and returned to his home in Farmer City, but in 1877 went to his native state and has since been engaged in the active practice of his profession at West Milton, Miami county. In that county he married Miss Elizabeth Hutchins, a native of Ohio, and a daughter of Josiah Hutchins, who was born in North Carolina of English parentage, and was an early settler of Ohio.

Dr. John A. Tuthill, of this review, grew to manhood in Illinois and acquired his literary education in the high school of Farmer City and the Dupaw University. He began the study of medicine under Dr. A. L. Norris, of Farmer City, and subsequently took a course of lectures at the medical department of the State University of Iowa, where he was graduated in 1881. In 1891 he took a post graduate course at the Post Graduate College, Chicago. On the 10th of March, 1881, a few days after his graduation, he opened an office in Le Roy and began practice in the face of strong opposition, as there were already four physicians in the place. His skill and ability soon became widely recognized, however, and he was not long in building up the large and lucrative practice which he still enjoys.

On the 26th of October, 1882, Dr. Tuthill was united in marriage with Miss Lida Kline, of Le Roy, a native of McLean county, who was educated in the Illinois Wesleyan University and was a successful

teacher of LeRoy for several years. Her father, John Kline, a successful and well-to-do farmer of this county, came here when a young man in 1855, married Miss Ellen Buck, the mother of Mrs. Tuthill. The Doctor and his wife have a family of five children, who are all attending school in Le Roy: Helen in the high school, Kline and Carl in the grammar department; and Hugh and Harry, twins, in the intermediate department.

Since casting his first presidential vote for James G. Blaine, Dr. Tuthill has supported every Republican candidate for the presidency, but he has never been an office seeker, preferring to give his undivided attention to his professional duties. As a friend of education, he has used his influence to secure good schools and teachers and has most efficiently served as a member of the school board for several terms. He has also been a member of the town board, and is now serving his second term as alderman of his ward. Religiously he and his wife belong to the Methodist Episcopal church, and socially he is a prominent member of the Modern Woodmen of America, the Improved Order of Red Men, and the Masonic fraternity, having served as master of the Blue Lodge, F. & A. M., for three years and as representative to the grand lodge of the state for two terms. He is a man of recognized prominence in social and professional circles and is very popular with all classes of people.

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EDGAR D. HARBER. Success is determined by one's ability to recognize opportunity, and to pursue this with a resolute and unflagging energy. It results from continued labor, and the man who thus ac-

compleishes his purpose usually becomes an important factor in the business circles of the community with which he is connected. Mr. Harber, through such means, has attained a leading place among the representative men of Bloomington, and his well-spent and honorable life commands the respect of all who know him.

A native of Illinois, he was born in Eureka, Woodford county, January 2, 1857, and is a son of David P. and Martha A. (Nance) Harber, who are mentioned more fully in the sketch of B. F. Harber on another page of this volume. He was educated in the common schools, and on laying aside his test books entered a business house in Eureka, where he acquired a good practical knowledge of business methods under his father, who was proprietor of the store. At the age of sixteen he was given an interest in the business, which was then carried on under the firm name of David P. Harber & Son, retail dealers in agricultural implements. Later his brothers became members of the company, and the father finally retired. Our subject was one of the youngest and most successful salesman in his line in that part of the state and on becoming interested in the business at the age of sixteen years served as salesman, book-keeper and buyer, all combined. The firm continued to successfully engage in business in Eureka until January, 1886, when, seeking a broader field of labor, they came to Bloomington. The first year here they were in a one-story iron-clad building, 428 and 430 North Main street, but after six months spent there they found their accommodations too small and erected a three-story brick building with a basement. The following year they built a two-story brick block on Center street, and a year later

finding it was necessary to have still larger quarters and side-track advantages, they erected, in 1891, the building that they now occupy. This is fifty-seven by two hundred feet, extending from Center to Main street, is five stories in height with a basement, and is particularly adapted to their business. Besides this they have ware-rooms elsewhere. Since coming to Bloomington their trade has steadily increased, and they now devote their attention almost exclusively to the wholesale business, as dealers in vehicles, farming machinery and binding twine. Their trade extends over Illinois, Iowa and Indiana, with distributing houses at Burlington, Iowa, and Freeport, Illinois. They give employment to a large number of men and do more business than any other house in their line in the state. The members of the firm are also stockholders in many of the factories that manufacture the goods which they sell.

On the 17th of January, 1884, Edgar D. Harber was united in marriage with Miss Fannie Price Young, of Bloomington, and to them have been born four children: Edith Clara, Ina Martha, Rachel and Dorothy. The family have a beautiful home at No. 1308 North Main street, which has become the center of a cultured society circle. Both Mr. and Mrs. Harber are members of the Christian church, and he also belongs to Wade Barney Lodge, F. & A. M., and the Bloomington Club. While a resident of Eureka he took quite an active and prominent part in public affairs, serving as mayor of the city, and school treasurer for a number of years. It is in business circles, however, that he is best known. He is a man of excellent business and executive ability, whose sound judgment, unflagging enterprise and capable management have brought to him a



well-merited success. In manner he is pleasant and cordial, which, combined with his sterling worth, makes him quite popular in his adopted city.

**T**HOMPSON D. FISHER, M. D.—More than forty-six years have passed since this gentleman arrived in McLean county, and he is justly numbered among her honored pioneers and leading citizens. He has been prominently identified with her professional interests as an able and successful physician and surgeon of Le Roy, but is now living retired in the enjoyment of a well-earned rest. His is an honorable record of a conscientious man, who by his upright life has won the confidence of all with whom he has come in contact.

Dr. Fisher is a native of Pennsylvania, born in Westmoreland county, October 1, 1826, and belongs to a family of German origin, which on leaving the fatherland went to England and thence to America, being among the first to settle in New Jersey. The Doctor's grandfather, Mathias Fisher, was a native of that state and a pioneer of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, where he located at the close of the Revolutionary war, in which he had taken an active part as a soldier of the Continental army. Abel Fisher, the Doctor's father, was born in Westmoreland county, 1788, and there spent his entire life as a farmer, dying in 1875 at the advanced age of eighty-seven years. He had married Hannah Stewart, also a native of Pennsylvania and a daughter of Jacob Stewart, who was born in New Jersey of Scotch ancestry, and was a representative of one of its old families. Mrs. Fisher died in 1840. She was the mother of seven children, two sons and five daughters,

of whom four are still living, namely: John, a resident of New Castle, Pennsylvania; Mrs. Rachel Forbes, a widow of Le Roy, Illinois; Mrs. Caroline Good, of Springfield, Ohio; and Thompson D., our subject.

In the county of his nativity Dr. Fisher grew to manhood and was educated in the common schools and Ligonier Academy. For two years he successfully engaged in teaching school in that county, and also taught for two terms in De Witt county and one term in Fulton, Illinois. He prepared himself for his chosen profession by reading medicine under the direction of Dr. Richardson, of Pleasant Unity, Pennsylvania, and took his first course of lectures at the Western Reserve Medical College, Cleveland, Ohio, in the winter of 1849-50. During the latter year he came to Illinois and located in De Witt county, where he remained for two years teaching and also spent one winter teaching in Fulton county, Illinois. In 1853 he settled in Le Roy and began practice here. Subsequently he went to Chicago and attended lectures at Rush Medical College, from which noted institution he graduated in the spring of 1857. For many years he devoted his entire time and attention to the duties of his profession, having built up a large practice which extended for many miles in every direction from Le Roy, even into adjoining counties. When he located here Bloomington was but a village of perhaps two thousand inhabitants, while Le Roy, with its very inferior and primitive class of business houses and small dwellings, had a population of about four hundred. The whole country was almost a wilderness, the few settlements being widely scattered. The Doctor was often called to see patients



in Farmer City and Saybrook, and as there were no railroads at that time, he had to drive the entire distance. He built up a large and remunerative practice, which he continued to enjoy until 1891, when he retired from labor. By the perusal of medical works and journals he always kept abreast with the latest discoveries made in the science of medicine and surgery, and held membership in the McLean County and the State Medical Societies. Upon land which he purchased in Le Roy, he built a commodious brick residence, which is one of the best in this part of the county, and there he and his wife expect to pass their remaining days in ease and quiet.

In De Witt county, Dr. Fisher was married April 20, 1853, to Miss Henrietta Lisenbey, who was born, reared and educated there. Her father, Benjamin Lisenbey, a native of North Carolina, came to Illinois in 1829 and first located in Sangamon county, but in the fall of 1830 removed to De Witt county, where he was numbered among the pioneers. When a young man he went to Kentucky and there married Miss Margaret Simpson, a native of Tennessee. To them were born ten children, of whom seven grew to man and womanhood, and three are still living, namely: William J., a farmer of De Witt county; Mrs. Nancy A. Suver, a widow, residing in Galesburg, Illinois, and Henrietta, wife of our subject. Though the Doctor and his wife have had no children of their own, they have given homes to four, whom they have reared and educated and who are now grown and married.

Originally, Dr. Fisher was a Jacksonian Democrat in politics and cast his first vote for General Cass in 1848. He supported Franklin Pierce in 1852, but in 1856 voted for the Republican candidate—John C. Fre-

mont—and continued to support that party until 1880, when, being a strong temperance man, he joined the ranks of the Prohibition party. He has never sought nor cared for official positions, though he has served as school trustee, a member of the school board of Le Roy, and as alderman from his ward. He and his wife attend the Universalist church and stand high in the community where they have so long made their home. As a public-spirited and enterprising citizen, he has given his support to every movement for the good of the community or his fellow men, and he justly merits the high regard in which he is held by all who know him.

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MARK GERBRICK, a member of the well-known firm of Rockhold & Gerbrick, is an important factor in business circles, being a leading merchant of the village of Stanford. He has won success by his well-directed, energetic efforts, and the prosperity that has come to him is certainly well deserved. He was born in Lebanon, Pennsylvania, August 24, 1849, and is a son of David and Anna (Bender) Gerbrick, who were born, reared and married near that place, and were representatives of old and highly respected families of that locality. The father, whose birth occurred in 1809, was engaged in farming and stock-raising on a small scale in the east until 1851, when he came to Illinois and settled near Bloomington, McLean county, where he purchased eighty acres of land, and later added to it one hundred and sixty acres. To the improvement and cultivation of his farm he devoted his time and attention until his death, which occurred in 1893.

Mark Gerbrick accompanied his parents on their removal to this county, and is in-

debted to its public schools for his educational privileges. When his own education was completed he turned his attention to the teacher's profession, which he successfully followed for eight years, having charge of district and also graded schools. In the meantime he studied pharmacy at intervals, and in 1879 formed a partnership with John Rockhold at Stanford. The following year they purchased a stock of drugs, which they opened up in the building formerly occupied by Mr. Rockhold, and have since enjoyed a large and flourishing trade. They carry the largest stock of drugs in the town and also handle groceries and sundries, and by fair and honorable dealing have gained a liberal share of the public patronage. After the death of his parents, Mr. Gerbrick owned an interest in two hundred and forty acres of land in the old homestead, and was engaged in agricultural pursuits until four years ago, when he sold the place.

Although an ardent supporter of the Democratic party, he has never cared for the honors or emoluments of public office. He is a prominent member of the Knights of Pythias and Masonic fraternities, having taken the thirty-second degree in the latter order. For years he was master of Stanford Lodge, No. 785, F. & A. M., and has held the various other offices in the blue lodge. He is a member of the consistory and Mystic Shrine of Chicago, and each year attends the annual banquet of the former at that place. He takes an active interest in the affairs of the order, but does not care for office, preferring to give his undivided attention to his business. He is a worthy representative of that class of citizens who lead quiet, industrious, honest and useful lives, and constitute the best portion of a community. Wherever known he is held in

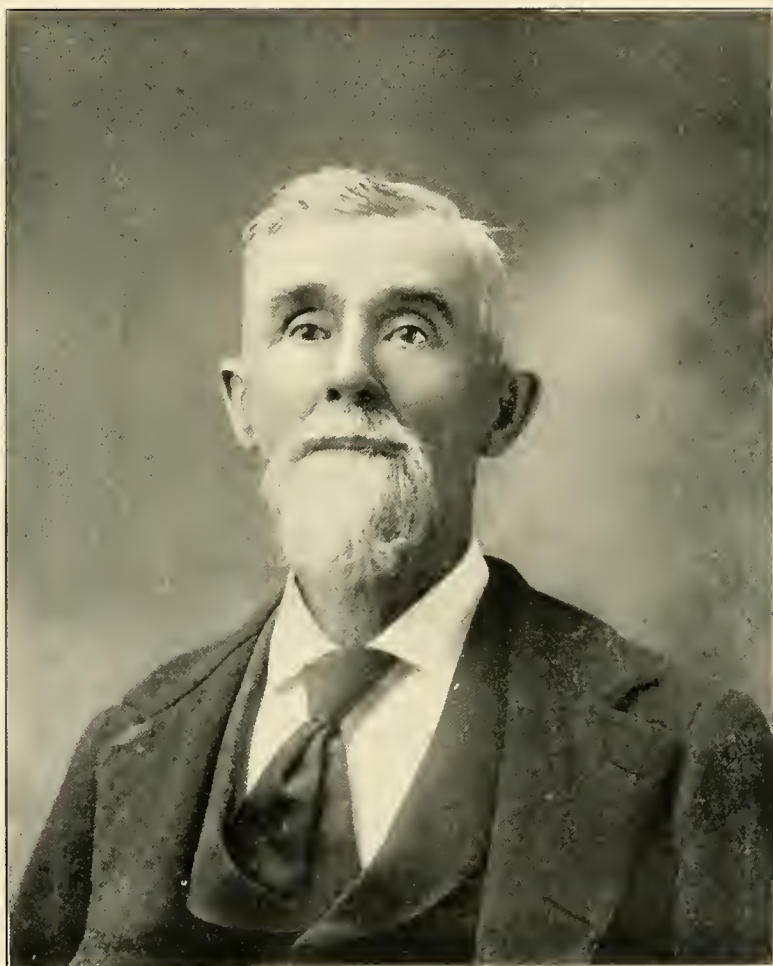
high regard, and as a highly-respected citizen is certainly deserving of honorable mention in the history of his adopted county.

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**G**EORGE M. SELLERS. There are few men more worthy of representation in a work of this kind than the subject of this biography, who is now living retired at his pleasant home in Le Roy. For a quarter of a century he was one of the leading farmers of this section of the county, but since 1893 has been spending his time in ease and quiet, free from the cares and responsibilities of business life. His has been a busy career, rich with experience, and in which he has established himself in the esteem and confidence of all who know him.

Mr. Sellers was born in Knox county, Ohio, September 8, 1837, and is a son of John and Nancy (Mitchell) Sellers, natives of Greene county, Pennsylvania, where their marriage was celebrated. The father was born in 1794 and belonged to a family of German origin which was founded in the Keystone state at a very early day in the history of this country. Removing to Knox county, Ohio, he became one of the pioneer settlers of that locality and there cleared and developed a farm in the midst of the wilderness, upon which he spent his remaining years, dying in December, 1892, at the extreme old age of nearly ninety-eight. His first wife and the mother of our subject died in 1838. He was a prominent man of his county and was a member of the state constitutional convention of Ohio, which convened about 1855, but never aspired to office.

George M. Sellers is the youngest in the family of six children born of the first mar-



• GEORGE M. SELLERS.

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TILDEN FOUNDATIONS



riage, all of whom reached years of maturity and five are still living. In the county of his nativity he grew to manhood, and his early education, acquired in its public schools, was supplemented by one year's attendance at Granville College, Licking county, Ohio. In the fall of 1859 he went to Texas, where he spent the winter, and then purchased a mule, on which he rode from Austin, that state, to Missouri, the journey occupying eighteen days. There he disposed of his mule and by train proceeded to his home in Ohio. In partnership with another gentleman he bought a flock of fifteen hundred sheep, which they started to drive to Texas. They wintered the flock in Edgar county, Illinois, and on account of the opening of the civil war decided that it was unsafe to go further, and in 1861 came to McLean county.

In McLean county Mr. Sellers was married, in October, 1863, to Miss Sarah C. Bonnette, who was also born, reared and educated in Knox county, Ohio, and in 1851 came with her father, John Bonnette, to this county. They began their domestic life upon a farm adjoining Le Roy on the east, where Mr. Sellers had purchased a partially improved place of one hundred and thirty-six acres. It had been fenced and a few acres cleared, and to its further development and cultivation he devoted his energies with marked success for several years. As his financial resources increased he added to the original purchase from time to time until he owned a fine farm of two hundred and thirty acres, well improved with good buildings. He continued to operate his land until 1888, when he rented the place and moved to Le Roy, where he built a good residence. In 1893 he erected a more modern and commodious house, and now

has one of the neatest and most attractive homes in the city.

Mr. Sellers has been called upon to mourn the loss of his estimable wife, who died in July, 1887, and was laid to rest in Oak Grove cemetery. Their only living child, Lizzie, is now the wife of William Keys, of Le Roy; Mary died in 1872, at the age of two years. Originally, Mr. Sellers was a Jeffersonian Democrat, and cast his first presidential vote for George B. McClellan, but being a strong temperance man he has for some years been a supporter of the men and principles of the Prohibition party. He served three years as highway commissioner of his township, but has never cared for public office. He is one of the most prominent and active members of the Christian church of Le Roy, and is serving as one of its elders. In many respects his life is well worthy of emulation, and is a living illustration of what ability, energy and force of character can accomplish, for he began his business career in limited circumstances, and the valuable property he has accumulated has been obtained through his own well directed efforts. He is well known and highly respected throughout the community for his sterling character and worth.

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**J**OHAN ROCKHOLD, a wide-awake and energetic business man of Stanford, and senior member of the mercantile firm of Rockhold & Gerbrick, is a native of McLean county, his birth having occurred five miles west of Bloomington, November 4, 1832. His father, Francis Rockhold, was born near Baltimore, Maryland, January 14, 1796, and in early life learned the cooper's trade with his father, as did also his four brothers,

two of whom followed the same after coming west. At Oxford, Ohio, Francis Rockhold worked at his trade for a time, and it was there that he became acquainted with Miss Isabella Beeler, to whom he was married in 1818. For five years after their marriage, they continued to make their home in Oxford and then came to McLean county, Illinois, where, in 1829, the father purchased a farm of one hundred and forty acres near Twin Grove. Here he gave his attention to agricultural pursuits and continued the operation of his farm until his death, January 6, 1883. The wife and mother died in 1844.

During his boyhood and youth, John Rockhold received such an education as the schools of those early days in this locality afforded, and the knowledge there acquired has been greatly supplemented by reading in later years. He obtained a good practical business education. Until twenty-six years of age he lived at home and assisted his father in the management of the farm. He was then married, December 19, 1840, to Miss Elizabeth Gore, a daughter of Elezar and Harriet Gore, of Fulton county, Illinois. After his marriage he operated a rented farm in Allin township for seven years, with good success, and at the end of that time removed to the present site of the flourishing village of Stanford, where he erected the first house, it being the one he still occupies. A part of this building, which was fourteen by thirty feet, he partitioned off into a store room, twelve by fourteen feet, and put in a stock of general merchandise, boots, shoes, etc., using the depot as a warehouse when his stock was heavy. On opening his store there was no access to the house from the road to the store room except by climbing a high fence,

or passing through a gate. This obstacle he sought to overcome, and one evening when several young men were in the store, he suggested that they go out and open up the road, which was done by tearing down the fences and taking up the posts. This was in 1867, and from that time business increased very rapidly, so that he has been obliged to enlarge his building and stock from time to time to meet the growing demands of his trade. In 1876 Mark Gerbrick became ininterested in the business, and through their combined efforts and able management they have succeeded in building up the largest trade in their line in this section of the county. They carry a well-selected stock of drugs, groceries and sundries, and by their honorable and straightforward course, have made for themselves a reputation in business circles.

Politically, Mr. Rockhold is identified with the Democratic party but has never aspired to office, though he has been a member of the city council a number of years. Socially he affiliates with the Improved Order of Red Men, in which he has held all the offices, and also belongs to Stanford Lodge, No. 185, F. & A. M. He contributes to the support of the Christian church, in which his wife holds membership, and both are highly respected by all who know them.

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**JAMES H. L. CRUMBAUGH.** For almost the allotted span of life of three-score years and ten this gentleman has been a resident of McLean county, and is therefore numbered among its honored pioneers. This section of the country was then considered the far west. The work of progress and advancement was just beginning in Mc-

Lean county, the greater part of the land was still in its primitive condition and the now flourishing and beautiful city of Bloomington was a small and unimportant town. As the years have passed and progress and improvement have wrought a great transformation, Mr. Crumbaugh has borne his part in the work of advancement and up-building, and being especially prominent in connection with the agricultural interests of this rich farming region. His residence in Illinois dates from 1828, and in McLean county from 1830.

He was born in Henderson county, Kentucky, near the town of Hendersonville, May 1, 1826, and is a son of Henry Crumbaugh, whose birth occurred in Maryland, April 25, 1789. His grandfather, Conrad Crumbaugh, was of German birth and became one of the pioneers of Maryland, locating in that colony prior to the war of the Revolution. There he spent his remaining days. When a young man Henry Crumbaugh removed to Kentucky after the war of 1812, and was married in that state to Sarah Baldock, who was born near Lexington, Scott county, in 1802. The father of our subject carried on farming in Kentucky until 1828, when he removed to Illinois, locating at Elkhart Grove, near Springfield. Two years later he came to what is now McLean county, settling near the present village of Le Roy. He preempted one hundred and sixty acres of land, built a log cabin and at once began developing a farm. When the land came into the market he entered his claim and eventually extended the boundaries of his homestead until it comprised three hundred and sixty acres. He also purchased land elsewhere, his possessions aggregating more than seven hundred acres. His diligence

and excellent business methods made him one of the successful agriculturists of the community, and he held high rank among the leading farmers of McLean county. He died October 12, 1877, when about eighty-nine years of age, and his wife, surviving him eight years, passed away February 2, 1885, at the age of eighty-three years. They were the parents of twelve children, six of whom reached mature years, while four brothers are yet living, namely: James H. L., who was the fourth in order of birth; John E., who is now living a retired life in Bloomington; and Andrew J. and Lewis C., who are living retired in Le Roy. Two sisters also grew to mature years: Lucy, who died in early womanhood, and Narcissa, wife of S. E. Thompson, of McLean county. Her death occurred in the spring of 1898.

James H. L. Crumbaugh was reared to manhood on the home farm. He received but limited school privileges, but through experience and observation has become a well-informed man. He remained with his father and with him engaged in the raising and feeding of cattle until twenty-five years of age. He was then married and located on a farm east of Le Roy, where he made his home for four years, devoting his energies to the cultivation of grains and the raising of stock. He then removed to a farm southwest of Le Roy, where he carried on business for thirty-four years, owning there a fine tract of land of more than eight hundred acres. He owns another farm of two hundred acres, also owns another tract, making a total of over fourteen hundred acres, so that he is now numbered among the extensive land holders of the county. In the fall of 1891, however, he rented his property and came to Le Roy



and purchased a pleasant home, wherein he has since resided. He owns within the corporate limits of the town eighteen acres of valuable land, and his property interests all stand as a monument to his thrift and enterprise.

On the 28th of September, 1851, Mr. Crumbaugh was united in marriage to Miss Amanda M. Buck, a daughter of Hiram Buck, one of the early settlers and prominent citizens of McLean county. She was born in Indiana, but was reared in this county, and by her marriage has become the mother of three children: Laura E., wife of William S. Lafferty, of Downs township; Edith M., wife of C. S. Lafferty, a merchant of Clinton; and Hiram H., a farmer of Empire township. The second daughter was a successful teacher prior to her marriage, and is a lady of superior mental culture.

Mr. Crumbaugh cast his first presidential ballot for Lewis Cass, in 1848, and has since been a staunch supporter of Democratic principles. He was elected and served as supervisor and a member of the county board of commissioners, being on several important committees. He was also commissioner of highways and township collector, has served as a school officer, and at all times has been most true and faithful to the trust reposed in him, discharging his duties with marked ability and fidelity. Both Mr. and Mrs. Crumbaugh and all of their children are members of the Universalist church, and he is a Master Mason, belonging to Le Roy Lodge. In his business he has met with excellent success, and his energy, untiring labor and honest dealing have been the stepping stones on which he has climbed upward. He is now numbered among the substantial citizens of the county,

and his success is well merited. He has ever manifested a deep interest in the progress and upbuilding of the county since its pioneer days, when deer and wolves were frequently seen, when the land was uncultivated and the railroad had not connected this region with the centers of trade. He has witnessed the wonderful development of the county, and is justly numbered among its honored pioneers.

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PLEASANT M. HANSON, postmaster of Fifer, Illinois, and who is also engaged in farming and merchandising, is a native of Marshall county, Illinois, born April 9, 1855. He is the son of William and Frances E. (Walston) Hanson, both of whom were natives of Pickaway county, Ohio, the former born in 1825. He was reared to the life of a farmer, following that occupation before and after coming to Illinois. In 1856 he moved to this state and located in Marshall county, where he remained but a short time and then came to McLean county, and purchasing a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, there spent the remainder of his life. He gave his attention to general farming and stock-raising, and while he never accumulated as much property as some others, he was a thoroughly honest and upright man, always having the respect of his fellow citizens. In politics he was a staunch Republican, and was a member of the Christian church. When a boy he was left an orphan, and with his brother, Uriah, was reared by friends, having no near relatives. He died at his home in Gridley township in August, 1887. His wife is yet living, and makes her home in the village of Gridley. They were the parents of six children: Pleasant



M., the subject of this sketch; Sciota, who died at the age of fifteen years; Dr. Owen J., the well-known dentist of Lexington, Illinois; Louisa, who married William Reid, of El Paso, Illinois, and died leaving two sons and two daughters; John, who now owns the old homestead in Gridley township; and Leonard, a farmer and land owner of the same township.

The subject of this sketch was reared on the home farm, and received his education in the common schools. Being the eldest of the family a large share of the farm work devolved on him from the time he was old enough to follow the plow. On the 14th of January, 1874, he was united in marriage with Miss Amanda Coon, a native of Missouri, and daughter of Michael and Naomi (Watson) Coon, who removed from Ohio to Illinois and later to Missouri. After their marriage the young couple began their domestic life on the home farm of the Hansons, where they remained one year. He then rented a farm for several years, and later purchased twenty acres on section 6, Money Creek township, and removing to that place, they there resided until 1895, when he purchased his present farm of sixty acres, and also engaged in the general merchandise business at Fifer. He was the same year appointed postmaster of Fifer, which position he still retains.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hanson seven children have been born: Francis O., who was educated in the State Normal School at Normal, and in the State University at Champaign, now engaged in teaching in the public schools; Charles P., also a well educated young man, engaged in teaching; Herbert H. and Cassel, at home; Clara, who died at the age of three years; Archie and Rachel, at home.

Mr. Hanson has always taken an interest in the cause of education, and has served as school director in his district a period of twelve years. In politics he is a Republican, and in religion is a Christian, holding membership in the Gregory church, of which body his wife is also a member. Fraternally, he is a member of El Paso Lodge, No. 926, I. O. O. F., in which he has filled all the chairs, being now past grand of the lodge. He is a well informed man on all the general issues and topics of the day, and a worthy citizen of the community in which he lives. His store is well filled with a choice stock of goods suitable to the wants of the general trade, and his business is in a prosperous condition.

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**W**ILLIAM D. HUNTER, deceased, was for many years a leading business man and highly esteemed citizen of Bloomington, Illinois. A native of Ohio, he was born in Carrolton, July 3, 1832, and there grew to manhood. Before coming west, he engaged in the cultivation of tobacco and also manufactured his own product into marketable goods, meeting with good success in the undertaking.

On coming to Bloomington, in 1860, Mr. Hunter embarked in the cigar business here, working at first for General McNulta, who had charge of General Dix's store during the early part of the civil war. Our subject enlisted in April, 1861, on the president's first call for volunteers, becoming a member of Company K, Eighth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and he remained in the service until the expiration of his three months' term. After his return home, he took charge of the cigar store when General McNulta entered the army and shortly

afterward bought the establishment which was then located on Centre street. He successfully conducted the business alone until the close of the war, when he formed a partnership with General Dix and engaged in the the manufacture, as well as the sale of cigars, employing eight hands most of the time. Their store, which was the leading one of its kind in the city at that time, was located in the Ashley House, now the Windsor Hotel. When the partnership was dissolved, Mr. Hunter was alone for a time, but later became a member of the firm of Hunter & Wright, General Dix being a silent partner. As wholesale dealers in liquors and cigars they did a good business for some time at the corner of Front and Centre streets, renting the whole building from basement up, and they enjoyed the largest trade of any firm of the kind in central Illinois. Finally Mr. Hunter retired from the company, and for two years prior to his death conducted only a small cigar store.

Mr. Hunter married Miss Emnia Stanefirth, who was born in Leeds, England, in 1844, and in 1853 emigrated to America with her parents, John and Hannah (Hartley) Stanefirth, who located in Bloomington. Her father twice enlisted in the Union army during the civil war and saw some very hard service. After his death, which occurred in Bloomington, Mrs. Stanefirth lived with Mrs. Hunter for thirty-one years, or until she, too was called to her final rest, December 20, 1898, at the age of eighty-one years. Mrs. Hunter completed her education in the schools of Bloomington and remained at home until her marriage, which was celebrated April 21, 1863. She is the mother of five children who are still living, namely: Charles, who is now living in Chicago; Ed-

win, at home with his mother; Walter, a resident of Normal, who married Flora Allison and has two children, Ruby and Pearl; Cora, at home; and Belle, now the wife of Harry Kirkwood, of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, by whom she has two children: Earl and May.

Mr. and Mrs. Hunter began their domestic life on West Front street, where they continued to make their home for twenty-nine years, and the property is still owned by the widow. From there they removed to the Robinson property on East Grove street, where occurred her husband's death. After his death, Mrs. Hunter built a pleasant home on State street. She was reared in the Methodist Episcopal church, of which her mother was a member, and has a large circle of friends in the community. Socially Mr. Hunter was a prominent member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows for some years, and for three years he most efficiently served as health commissioner of the city. He died November 26, 1895, respected by all who knew him. He was a most generous, kind-hearted man, and was always willing to sacrifice his own pleasure for the good of his family and friends.

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**W**ILLET L. MARTIN, a well-known liveryman and highly-esteemed citizen of LeRoy, is one of McLean county's native sons and a representative of one of her most prominent and honored families, whose identification with her history dates from an early period in the development of the county.

Archer Martin, the father of our subject, was born in Kentucky, in 1789, and when a young man went to Ohio, becoming one

of the early settlers of Champaign county. There he was united in marriage with Miss Jane Llewellyn, a native of New Jersey and a daughter of Squire Llewellyn, who was also born in New Jersey and was a pioneer of Ohio. In 1833, Mr. Martin removed from that state to Illinois and was one of the first to locate in what is now McLean county. Taking up a claim of one hundred and sixty acres of land near the present town of Le Roy, he at once began to improve his place, breaking the land, fencing it and erecting good buildings thereon. As time passed he bought more land until he became the owner of six hundred acres, being one of the prosperous and well-to-do farmers as well as one of the highly-respected citizens of the county. He died upon his farm in 1868, at the ripe old age of seventy-nine years, and his wife passed away in 1871 at the age of sixty-nine years.

The subject of this sketch was born on the home farm in Empire township, December 28, 1843, and at an early age acquired a thorough knowledge of all the duties which fall to the lot of the agriculturist, at the same time attending the common schools of the neighborhood. He remained with his father, assisting in the labors of the home farm for several years after attaining his majority, and then settled on an adjoining farm of eighty acres. To the further improvement and cultivation of that place he devoted his energies for some years, in the meantime extending its boundaries until they embraced two hundred and seventy-seven acres. He erected a comfortable residence, good barns and other outbuildings, planted fruit, forest and ornamental trees, and made it one of the best of its size in the locality. For over a quarter of a century he continued to give his time

and attention to general farming and stock raising in Empire township, and met with well-deserved success. Renting his farm in 1894 he removed to Le Roy, where he purchased residence property and has since made his home. For three years he lived retired, but not being satisfied with that sort of life, he bought out a livery stable which he has successfully conducted, having built up an excellent trade by fair and honorable dealing and courteous treatment of his customers.

In 1869, Mr. Martin was united in marriage with Miss Demaris Dooley, who was born, reared and educated in Kentucky, and died in 1873, leaving two daughters, namely: Mrs. Mary J. Wirt, of Le Roy; and Florence M., at home. Mr. Martin was again married in 1876, his second union being with Miss Cynthia Baum, a native of Ohio, where her girlhood was passed, and to them were born four children: Laura and Elverda both at home; and Charles A. and Homer J., who are attending the Le Roy schools.

Politically, Mr. Martin has been a life-long Republican and has never failed to cast his ballot for each presidential nominee of the party since voting for General U. S. Grant in 1868. Political honors have no attraction for him as he has preferred to give his entire time and attention to his business interests. Religiously he and his wife are consistent members of the Le Roy Methodist Episcopal church, and socially he belongs to Le Roy Lodge, I. O. O. F. He has ever watched with interest the wonderful transformation that has taken place in the county since his infancy, and in the work of development and progress he has ever borne his part by the improvement of an excellent farm and by his support of



those enterprises designed to promote the general welfare. As a business man and citizen he stands high in the county and is widely and favorably known.

**C**HARLES ALLEN. The life of this gentleman is a striking example of what can be accomplished by perseverance, industry and good management, for he started out to make his own way in the world empty-handed, and by his own well-directed efforts has become the possessor of a comfortable home and competence. Throughout his active business career he has followed agricultural pursuits, and is now the owner of a most desirable farm of one hundred and fifty-six acres on section 32, Randolph township, conveniently located within a mile of Heyworth.

Mr. Allen was born in Union county, Ohio, May 19, 1845, but the following July was brought to McLean county by his parents, David S. and Betsy (Love) Allen, who were natives of Pennsylvania and Ohio, respectively. John Love, the maternal grandfather, was of Irish parentage. The father of our subject was born in 1792, and when a young man went to Ohio, where his marriage was celebrated. He was a natural mechanic, very handy with all kinds of tools, and in early life followed the carpenter's and cabinet-maker's trades. On coming to this county he located on eighty acres of raw land near the present town of Ellsworth, and transformed the same into a good farm, remaining there for some years, but his last days were spent in Downs township, where he died in the spring of 1865. He was three times married, his second wife being our subject's mother, who died about 1855.

Charles Allen grew to manhood in this county, but had little school privileges and is almost wholly self-educated. In the spring of 1865 he enlisted in Company B, One Hundred and Fiftieth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and with his command first went to Bridgeport, Alabama, and later to Cleveland, Tennessee, where he did guard duty until the expiration of his term of enlistment, being honorably discharged in the spring of 1866. After his return home he engaged in farming upon rented land in Downs township for two or three years.

On the 30th of December, 1869, Mr. Allen was united in marriage with Miss Charity E. Cusey, a daughter of John Cusey, an honored early settler of the county, and to them have been born three sons, namely: John C., a prominent farmer and collector of Downs township, who is married and has two children, Elsie and Erma; Charles A., who is single and is engaged in farming in Downs township; and Lawrence B., who is at home.

For one year after his marriage Mr. Allen continued to operate rented land, and then purchased one hundred acres in Downs township, four miles east of Heyworth, to the further improvement and cultivation of which he devoted his energies with marked success for some years. He tiled and ditched the farm, erected good and substantial buildings thereon, but in 1893 traded it in part payment for his present fine farm in Randolph township. Here he has also built a good barn, corncribs, etc., and made many other excellent improvements and is now successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising, fattening each year for the city markets a large number of hogs and some steers.

In his political affiliations Mr. Allen is a



stanch Republican, although he was reared a Democrat, and he cast his first presidential vote for General U. S. Grant, in 1868. As one of the leading and representative citizens of his community he has been honored with several local positions of honor and trust, and most creditably filled the office of constable in Downs township about twelve years, township collector two terms, and highway commissioner, resigning the last named office on his removal to Randolph township. Every trust reposed in him, whether public or private, has always been most conscientiously discharged, and he and his wife are both earnest members of the Heyworth Methodist Episcopal church, in which faith they were reared. He is one of the trustees of the church, and has passed through all the chairs of the Odd Fellows Lodge of Heyworth, being at present past grand. He is also a prominent member of the Grand Army Post at that place and served as commander during 1899.

**JOHN NAGEL.** It is astonishing to witness the success of young men who have emigrated to America without capital and from a position of comparative obscurity worked their way upward to a position of prominence. The readiness with which they adapt themselves to circumstances and take advantage of opportunities offered, brings to them success and wins them a place among the leading men of the communities in which they reside. Prominent in this class is the gentleman whose name introduces this sketch. He was born in Mecklinburg, Germany, March 19, 1823, and is a son of Christian and Mary Nagel, who emigrated to America in October, 1865, locating in La Salle county, Illinois, where they remained

until Mrs. Nagel's death, which occurred after six years, on the 3d of July, 1870. Soon afterward Christian Nagel removed to Nebraska, where he survived his wife by four years, dying in 1874. Eleven children have been born to them, three of whom are living. Our subject, who is the first child of this marriage, was reared and educated in Germany. He was thirty-seven years of age when his parents emigrated to America, he having come to America previous to his father, and with his father he located in La Salle county, Illinois, where he worked by the month for a period of four years, removing at the expiration of this time to Yates township, McLean county, where he purchased eighty acres, and in a few years eighty acres more, later added one hundred acres. In 1885 he purchased one hundred and sixty acres, making a total of four hundred and twenty acres, the greater portion of which is devoted to the cultivation of grains.

On the 26th of August, 1862, Mr. Nagel married Miss Catherine Oldhouse, a daughter of Peter and Anna Oldhouse, natives of Germany. Mrs. Nagel was born February 15, 1842, in Germany, and came to America with her sister when a girl of sixteen years. Mr. and Mrs. Nagel have had nine children, three of whom are deceased. The six still living are here named in order of birth: Louis P., Emma E., John H., Edward T., Tena A. and Minnie C. Our subject and his wife are both members of the Lutheran church, in which, during his younger days, the former held responsible positions. Politically he is a Republican and is much interested in all affairs of state. He has served as road commissioner, and the present excellent condition of the roads about Chenoa is largely due to his unrelaxed ef-

forts. Mr. Nagel has been a hard-working, far-seeing man of business, whose upright and honorable dealings, good management and judgment have given him a much deserved success. He now lives in Chenoa, where he moved March 7, 1898, and is living a life of quiet enjoyment after the toils and turmoils of a busy life.

**F**RANK EDWARDS, a well-known livery and prominent Democratic politician of Bloomington, Illinois, was born in that city, April 7, 1855, and is a son of George and Mary (Moon) Edwards, who for the past twenty years have here lived, retired enjoying the fruits of former toil. The father was born in 1818, in Tennessee, in which state he grew to manhood and learned the trade of a cabinet maker, his father being an old resident there. At an early day the former came to McLean county, Illinois, and first located at Pleasant Hill, where he engaged in business, but for a half century he has now made his home in Bloomington, and for thirty years was one of the leading painters and decorators of the city. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and are widely known and highly respected. They were married in Paris, Illinois, though she is a native of Ohio. Of the ten children born to them, only three are now living, namely: William a resident of Salt Lake City, Utah; Frank, our subject; and Fred, a resident of Bloomington.

Frank Edwards is indebted to the public and high schools of Bloomington for his educational privileges, and his early business training was obtained in his father's paint shop, where he worked for a time, but from early youth, his love of horses has led him

to deal in those animals, and he has probably bought and shipped as many as any man in this vicinity, selling principally to the Chicago and St. Louis markets. For the past twenty years he has also successfully conducted a livery stable, and now owns the large barns at 405 West Front street, which are well equipped with all kinds of carriages and vehicles and a good grade of horses. He has been longer engaged in this business than any other man in the city, and receives a liberal share of public patronage. He married Miss Anna Long, and to them have been born three children: Frank, Florence, and one who died in infancy.

Socially Mr. Edwards is quite prominent and is a member of the Improved Order of Red Men, and the Columbian Knights. He has always been active and prominent in Democratic circles, and for years has been a member of the executive committee, doing all in his power to promote the interests of his party. He has twice run for alderman, but as the city is strongly Republican, he was defeated by seventeen votes, and as candidate for supervisor was defeated by thirty-three votes, but as the normal Republican majority the latter year was six hundred and eighty-seven, the large vote that he received plainly indicates his popularity. During the spring election of 1899, he was the Democratic candidate for street commissioner, and this time only lacked thirty-three votes of being elected, while the other candidates of his party were defeated from four hundred and fifty to seven hundred votes. There is probably no man in the city that has more friends or that is held in higher esteem by his acquaintances than Frank Edwards.

**HARRISON H. CLARK.** The subject of this personal history is a well-known resident of Randolph township, living on section 8, within two and a half miles of Heyworth, and is highly esteemed as a man of enterprise, besides being a worthy citizen and having to his credit an unblemished war record. He has made his home in this county since the spring of 1857, and has since been prominently identified with its farming and stock-raising industries. He was also one of the originators and has since been a stockholder of the Heyworth Bank.

Mr. Clark was born in Knox county, Ohio, July 6, 1836, and is a son of Henson Clark, a native of Pennsylvania, who, when a young man, went from the Keystone state to Ohio and took up his residence in Licking county. Here he wedded Mary Jaggers, who was born in New Jersey, but was reared on Long Island, whence her father removed to Ohio. For some years Henson Clark engaged in farming in Licking county, but in 1857 brought his family to McLean county, Illinois, and purchased a farm of four hundred acres in Randolph township, on which he lived for four years. He spent his last days with his sons, George and Harrison, and died here about 1871, at the ripe old age of seventy-three years. His wife survived him four years, dying at the age of seventy-eight years. Harrison is the youngest of their six children, three sons and three daughters, all of whom reached years of maturity, and with the exception of one daughter, all are still living.

Harrison Clark was reared and educated in Licking county, Ohio, and when a young man came with his parents to this county, in 1857, remaining with his father until the latter's death. His patriotism being awakened by the imminent danger of our coun-

try from the hands of the rebels, he enlisted in August, 1862, in Company I, Ninety-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of the war, participating in many important engagements, including the battles of Prairie Grove, Arkansas, Wilson Creek, Port Gibson, Vicksburg, Black River, the Texas campaign, and the sieges of Mobile and Spanish Fort, after which he went with his command to Galveston, Texas. Although he was on many hard marches and took part in many hotly contested engagements, he was never wounded or ill, and was in active service until honorably discharged at Springfield, Illinois, in the summer of 1865. From private he was promoted to the rank of corporal, and later to second sergeant.

In McLean county, Mr. Clark was married, in 1866, to Miss Sarah Blandin, a native of Licking county, Ohio, and a daughter of Rev. Thomas Blandin, who came to this county when Mrs. Clark was a child of ten years, but later removed to De Witt county, Illinois. The children born of this union are: Pauline, now the wife of Charley Greenley, of Heyworth; Charles, who is married and follows farming in Funks Grove township; Lewis B., who is engaged in agricultural pursuits upon the home farm; and Justina, at home.

After his marriage, Mr. Clark located on a farm near Randolph Station, where he owned one hundred and sixty acres, which he placed under excellent cultivation and improved with good buildings. He continued the operation of that farm until 1881, when he sold it and removed to his present farm, on which he has since made many useful and valuable improvements in the way of buildings, including the erection of a commodious and pleasant residence. Be-



sides his property he owns eighty acres in Funks Grove township, all of which has been acquired through his indomitable perseverance, good management and strict attention to business. Endowed by nature with a sound judgment and an accurate, discriminating mind, he has feared not that laborious attention to the details of business so necessary to achieve success, and the prosperity that has crowned his efforts is certainly justly merited. Politically he has been identified with the Republican party since casting his first presidential ballot for Abraham Lincoln in 1860, and has ever taken a deep and commendable interest in public affairs. Although he has never aspired to office he has been called upon to serve his fellow-citizens as highway commissioner three terms, and as a member of the school board and president of the district for several years. Religiously his wife holds membership in the Presbyterian church, while he belongs to the Christian church of Heyworth.

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**H**ON. BERNARD J. CLAGGETT, an ex-mayor of Lexington and well-known citizen of McLean county, is a native of the same county, born February 12, 1861, and is the son of Sanford R. and Nancy (Terry) Claggett, both of whom were early settlers of McLean county, and well known throughout its length and breadth. Sanford R. Claggett was twice married, and by his first wife he was the father of one daughter, Ella A., who married S. J. VanDyke, and they now reside in Lexington. His second marriage was with Miss Nancy Terry, a native of Ross county, Ohio, born April 1, 1830, and a daughter of Barton and Mary Terry, natives

of Virginia. By the second marriage there were six children born: Jessie, who died in infancy; William H., who is in partnership with our subject in the mercantile business in Lexington; Bernard J., our subject; Edna, who died in 1890, at the age of twenty-three years; Blanche, who married Lewis B. Strayer, but who died August 9, 1896, leaving two children, Jane and Elaine, who are living in Lexington; Carrie, who married Robert E. Hatcher, and resides with her husband and two children in Colfax, Illinois. The father passed to his reward August 28, 1890, but his widow is still living, and yet makes her home in Lexington. In politics he was a Democrat, and fraternally he was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He was well and favorably known, and a man who was held in the very highest esteem. At his funeral, ex-Vice-President Stevenson, Judge Scott, Hon. James Ewing and Dr. William Hill were the honorary pall bearers.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in his native city, and in its public schools received his primary education. In 1876 he entered Wesleyan University, at Bloomington, where he remained one year. He then went to South Bend, Indiana, and became a student in the University of Notre Dame, where he spent three years, taking the classical course. Having decided on a business career he left the university and went to St. Louis, Missouri, and took a business course in Jones' Business College, from which he graduated in 1881.

Returning to Lexington after his graduation, Mr. Claggett entered his father's store as a clerk, continuing in that position one year, when he was admitted to the firm of Claggett Brothers & Company. On the



organization of the First National Bank of Lexington, in December, 1882, he was chosen cashier, and served as such until 1896, when the bank went into voluntary liquidation. In the management of the bank he showed good financial ability and had the confidence of the entire community. On the death of his father he was made administrator of the estate, and in its management and final disposition displayed unusual executive ability.

On the 13th of December, 1882, Mr. Claggett was united in marriage with Miss Nettie McCurdy, of Bloomington, born in Lexington, August 30, 1862. By this union one child was born, Ralph Bernard, October 13, 1883, now a student in the school in Lexington. On the 27th of December, 1886, Mrs. Claggett passed to her reward, and on the 24th of April, 1890, Mr. Claggett married Miss Gertrude McNaught, who was born in Lexington, August 13, 1869, and daughter of William N. McNaught, of that city. By this union there are two children: Loretta and Blanche Mildred.

In politics Mr. Claggett is a steadfast Democrat, with which party he has been identified since attaining his majority. He has always taken an active interest in political affairs, and has been honored by his party and fellow citizens with various offices of honor and trust. His first office was that of alderman from his ward, and he was elected president of the council, and was the youngest man ever elected to that position. He has practically been continued in office since he arrived at man's estate. In 1892 he was elected as a minority member of the legislature from his district, and was a very active member of that body. He was uncompromisingly in opposition to trusts and corporations, and

always voted in the interests of the people. He was re-nominated without opposition, but declined the nomination to accept the nomination of state treasurer on the Democratic ticket, but was defeated with the rest of the state ticket, the state going Republican. In May, 1897, he was again elected mayor of Lexington on the anti-saloon ticket, and had the satisfaction of closing the saloons of the city in a very short time.

Fraternally Mr. Claggett is a member of Lexington Lodge, No. 482, A. F. & A. M.; Chenoa Chapter, No. —, R. A. M.; of McLean Lodge, No. 206, I. O. O. F.; and of Ideal Lodge, No. 338, K. P. Socially he is a member of Bloomington Club, in which are some of the best people of that city and county. He is a member of the Christian church at Lexington, of which body his wife is also a member. No man in McLean county is held in higher esteem than the subject of this sketch, and no man is more worthy of the honors bestowed on him.

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ELMER E. EWING, a representative and prominent farmer, who is successfully following his chosen calling in Allin township, is one of McLean county's native sons, his birth having occurred in Mt. Hope township, January 26, 1864. His father, John H. Ewing, was born in Logan county, Kentucky, in 1839, and in early childhood was brought to Illinois by his parents, Nathaniel and Nancy Ewing, who settled on a farm in Mt. Hope township, McLean county, where the father of our subject remained until he attained his majority. He wedded Miss Mary J. Moore, who was born December 27, 1837, near Zanesville, Ohio. Her parents, John and Betty Moore, re-

moved with their family, from that place to Illinois, in 1844, and located in Tazewell county, where the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Ewing was celebrated. They began their domestic life upon a farm of forty acres in Mt. Hope township, McLean county, which he had previously purchased. In 1863 he responded to his country's call for aid in putting down the rebellion, enlisting in Company—, One Hundred and Forty-fifth Illinois Infantry, and was in active service until taken ill with measles, from which he died at Rollo, Missouri, in July, 1864.

Elmer E. Ewing was but six months old when his father died and was reared upon the home farm by his mother, who continued to reside upon the place which her husband had purchased previous to his enlistment. Our subject attended the district schools of the neighborhood and later the high school of Bloomington, and when his education was completed, operated the home farm until 1898, when he sold his property in Mt. Hope township, and purchased one hundred and ninety acres on section 31, Allin township, upon which he is now successfully engaged in general farming and gives considerable attention to stock-raising. He ships his stock from Stanford, Danvers, McLean and Covell, and is the only shipper at the first named place.

On the 9th of December, 1886, Mr. Ewing was united in marriage with Miss Mary B. Murphy, a native of McLean county, where her parents, W. J. and Frances Murphy, were also born. The children born of this union are Bessie and Verna, who are attending school in their district; and Fay and Dean M., both at home. Mrs. Ewing is an earnest member of the Cumberland Presbyterian church, to the support of which her husband contributes.

Politically, he is a stanch Republican, and though he takes an active and commendable interest in public affairs, he has never cared for the honors or emoluments of public office, preferring to give his undivided attention to his business interests. He is a pleasant, genial gentleman, who makes many friends and is quite popular in his community.

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**L** EONARD A. CRUMBAUGH. The prosperity of any community depends upon its business activity and the enterprise manifest in commercial circles is the foundation upon which is builded the material welfare of the town, state and nation. The most important factors in public life at the present day are therefore the men who are in control of successful business interests, and such a one is Leonard A. Crumbaugh, of Le Roy. He is prominently connected with various trade concerns and is now at the head of one of the leading and most reliable banking houses in this section of the state.

Almost his entire life has been spent in McLean county, for he was born at Elk Grove, Sangamon county, November 13, 1829, and in the spring of 1830 was brought to this locality. His father, Daniel Crumbaugh, was born near Fredericksburg, Maryland, December 7, 1794, and when fourteen years of age went to Kentucky, spending much of his youth in Scott county, that state. During the war of 1813 he enlisted in his country's service and valiantly followed the stars and stripes for a year, participating in the battle of the Thames. In 1816 he marries Susan Winters, by whom there were four children. She died in 1823. On receiving an honorable dis-

charge he returned to his home and soon afterward went to Ohio, where he remained about three years. Later he spent several years in Kentucky and was married in January, 18—, to Martha M. Robertson, a native of North Carolina. In 1829 they removed to Sangamon county, Illinois, and in 1830 came to what is now McLean county, casting in their lot with the pioneer settlers of this undeveloped region. Mr. Crumbaugh secured a claim of one hundred and sixty acres in Empire township, turned the first furrows upon the place, and in course of time developed a good farm. When the land was placed upon the market he entered it from the government and added to it by additional purchase until he became the owner of some five hundred acres. He was a successful and prosperous farmer, whose active and useful life was ended in 1876, when he had attained the age of eighty-two years. His wife passed away June 4, 1857.

In the family of ten children, all grew to mature years, and five sons and two daughters are yet living. Of this family, L. A. Crumbaugh is the eldest. He was reared amid the wild scenes of frontier life, upon the home farm, receiving such educational privileges as the early schools afforded, but giving the greater part of his time to the labor of plowing, planting and harvesting. He was early trained to the habits of industry and economy, which have characterized his entire life, and have been the salient features in his success. He gave his father the benefit of his services until twenty-three years of age, and then began farming on his own account. He had entered a tract of two hundred and forty acres near the old homestead and turning the furrows upon this land he transformed it into rich fields,

making it a productive and valuable tract. He later bought more land and now owns nine hundred and sixty acres, being one of the extensive land-holders of the county. He erected thereon a large, neat and substantial residence, good barns and out-buildings, planted an orchard and ornamental trees, divided it into fields of convenient size by well-kept fences, and in course of time became the owner of one of the best improved farms of the township. For forty years he successfully carried on agricultural pursuits, but in 1882 left the farm, purchased lots in Le Roy, and built thereon a good residence, in which he has since made his home.

The following year he formed a partnership with his brother, J. T. Crumbaugh, and established the Citizens Bank, a private institution, which was started with a capital stock of twenty-eight thousand dollars. This has been increased from time to time, and with passing years the bank has gained the reputation of being one of the most popular and solid financial institutions of the county. Mr. Crumbaugh is serving as president, and his son, Frank Crumbaugh, fills the position of cashier. He is also a stockholder in the State National Bank of Bloomington, and has been doing business with the First National Bank of Bloomington since its establishment in the '40s. He is also a stockholder in the Building and Loan Association of Le Roy, a local institution, and has served as treasurer from the beginning. It is now in a flourishing condition. He was one of the organizers of the Le Roy Electric Light Company, is its president and one of the heaviest stockholders. Thus along various lines has he been prominently connected with the business enterprises that have contributed to



the upbuilding and prosperity of his town and county. His energy, industry, systematic business methods and keen discrimination have brought to him a creditable and gratifying success, and his possessions are the just reward of his labor.

Mr. Crumbaugh was married in this county, September 15, 1856, to Sarah Wiley, a native of the county, and a daughter of James Wiley, who came to McLean county in 1835. There were five children by this union: Permelia, who died at the age of two years; Charles, who served as cashier of the Citizens Bank from its organization until his death in 1892; Gertie, wife of Dr. Hall, of Bloomington; Frank, who is now the cashier of the Citizens bank. He married Jennie Mount and they have four children, Hazel, Charley, Vera and L. A., and one who died in infancy.

In his political affiliations, Mr. Crumbaugh is a Jeffersonian Democrat and since casting his first vote for Franklin Pierce in 1852, has supported each presidential nominee of the party. He has never aspired to office, preferring to devote his energies to his extensive business interests. He belongs to the Le Roy Universalist church. Through a residence of almost seventy years, he has watched the progress and development of McLean county, and his name should be inscribed high upon the roll of its leading business men, valued citizens and honored pioneers.

him a valued resident. He is widely known and his worth and ability have gained him success, honor and public confidence.

Mr. Merchant was born February 13, 1838, on the family homestead, a farm of two hundred and twenty acres, in Randolph township, Morris county, New Jersey, near Morristown, and is the fourth in order of birth in a family of seven children, whose parents were Daniel Platt and Eliza (Carey) Merchant. His early years were passed at home, assisting in all the work pertaining to farming, and his education was received in the district school and in select private schools in Newark. He left home for the west in November, 1854, and accepted a position as a rodman in a survey then being made through Missouri for the North Missouri Railroad, now a part of the Wabash system. After the surveys were completed he worked on the construction in Audrain and Boone counties until, for lack of funds, the work ceased in 1856. He was next with his uncle, Ahaz Merchant, city engineer of Cleveland, Ohio, and his cousin, Aaron Merchant, county surveyor of Cuyahoga county, Ohio, and by assisting in both city and county work for several months he gained some valuable information in land surveys and municipal work.

Later the engineer for whom Mr. Merchant worked on the North Missouri Railroad—James P. Low, a West Point graduate—offered him a position with an engineering corps in Iowa, with headquarters at Wapello, Louisa county. Financial stringency stopped work on this road in December, 1856, but Mr. Low secured a position for himself and engineering party on a survey that commenced at White Hall, Greene county, Illinois, and was completed through the counties of Greene, Scott, Mor-

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**I**RA MERCHANT, a leading and representative citizen of Bloomington, has been one of the most important factors in her upbuilding and development, and his devotion to the public welfare has made



gan, Cass, Schuyler, McDonough, Warren, Mercer, Henry and Rock Island. In April, 1857, at the age of twenty years, he was appointed assistant engineer by Mr. Low and placed in charge of construction from White Hall to Beardstown, a distance of fifty miles. Subsequently two divisions were formed, and he took charge of that portion of the line from the northern boundary of Scott county to Beardstown. In the summer of 1858 he was ordered by the chief engineer, Mr. Low, to make preliminary surveys from White Hall south, on the Chicago & Alton Railroad, at Brighton, and was placed in charge of the construction of this division after completing the location.

On the 14th of February, 1860, Mr. Merchant married Miss Mary, daughter of Francis and Louisa Arenz, of Cass county, Illinois. Her father was a prominent man, interested in the politics of that time, and was a friend of Lincoln, Yates, Baker, McClernaut, Palmer and other noted leaders in political life. Mr. and Mrs. Merchant have one child, Ella, now the wife of Charles H. McWhorter, a merchant of Denver, Colorado, by whom she has two children, Ira and Irene. Our subject and his wife also have an adopted son, a nephew of Mrs. Merchant, Walter Francis Arenz, whose mother died when he was only one month old. He is now fifteen years of age.

The hard times and great business depression preceding the war of the Rebellion closed the work of construction on the Rock Island & Alton, now the St. Louis division of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad. Mr. Merchant was then engaged for several months in making final estimates of all contractors' work from Brighton

north to Macomb, McDonough county, and was the last civil engineer to work on the line previous to the breaking out of the war.

In August, 1861, he enlisted in a company raised at Winchester, Scott county, and was elected orderly sergeant of that company, which became Company C, Twenty-eighth Illinois Infantry. After a short time spent at Camp Butler, they were ordered to St. Louis to be armed, and then proceeded to Bird's Point, Missouri, under command of Lieutenant Colonel Waters, no colonel having been assigned. In the fall of 1861 Lieutenant Colonel Armory K. Johnson, of the Fourteenth Illinois Infantry, was appointed colonel and joined the command at Fort Holt, Kentucky, opposite Cairo. Mr. Merchant was commissioned by Governor Richard Yates as second lieutenant of his company on the 27th of December, 1861, to take rank from November 20. On the 19th of November, 1862, he was commissioned ——— by the same governor, on recommendation of Colonel Johnson, and on the commission was endorsed "promoted for meritorious services at Fort Donelson and Pittsburg Landing." After the latter battle he was detailed for signal duty and was with the camp of instruction at Paducah, Kentucky, until June, 1862, when he rejoined his regiment at Grand Junction, Tennessee.

On the 4th of July, 1862, while in charge of advanced picket at Holly Springs, Mississippi, Mr. Merchant was wounded in the left arm. At the time the injury was considered light, but erysipelas setting in he was in danger of losing his arm. When the line of the Memphis & Charleston Railroad was abandoned in the summer of 1862 and the troops were ordered to Memphis, the wounded, sick and convalescent were

sent north to Cairo to be assigned to hospitals, but on account of the danger of infection to other wounded, Mr. Merchant was prevented from entering any hospital. In September he rejoined his command, and while not physically able to attend to all the duties, he took command of the company and marched to Bolivar, Tennessee, and from there to Hatchie river, where he was with his company in the heat of the engagement, October 6, 1862, although carrying his arm in a sling. After the battle was over, in taking a short cut through the timber to visit the field hospital, he came upon a party of Confederates in hiding who, supposing they were surrounded, were anxious to surrender if guaranteed they would not be fired at. They were placed in line and marched to the heights near the battle ground and turned over to the provost marshal. Major General Stephen A. Hurlburt personally complimented Lieutenant Merchant for his action and services in this engagement. Soon after this Colonel Johnson was appointed colonel command the Third Brigade, Fourth Division, Sixth Army Corps, composed of the Twenty-eighth, Thirty-second, and Forty-first Illinois and the Fifty-third Indiana regiments and appointed Lieutenant Merchant brigade quartermaster. He was in the saddle constantly in Grant's movement south through Mississippi to Water Valley, where the command was compelled to retreat by reason of the capture of Holly Springs by General Van Doren. During the winter of 1862-3 the army occupied the line of the Memphis & Charleston Railroad and Lieutenant Merchant was with the brigade at Collierville and acted as post quartermaster, railroad agent and express agent. Still suffering from his

arm and receiving from Dr. West, his regimental surgeon, the advice to resign or be liable to lose the arm and perhaps his life, he forwarded his resignation to General Grant in March, 1863, and it was accepted in April.

Returning to Illinois, Mr. Merchant went to Newark, New Jersey, to secure the services of Dr. Sweet, a noted surgeon, who, after treating him several months and relieving somewhat the rigidity of the muscles and soreness of the arm, told him he might take up his work, as no further improvement could be made. On again coming to Illinois he was elected surveyor of Sangamon county largely through the influence of Governor Yates. After serving the term for which he was elected, he engaged to relocate government surveys on the Sullivant tract in Ford county, some forty thousand acres in a body. After completing this survey he took charge of the field party and completed the preliminary surveys and estimates for the construction of the Peoria & Rock Island Railroad.

In the winter of 1868 Mr. Merchant located in Bloomington and opened an office for surveying and civil engineering, and while making a start in local work was employed by Larrimore & Davis to assist in making abstracts of titles. His wife had been appointed the first superintendent of the Soldiers' Orphans' Home, and in August, 1867, under the direction of the trustees, John M. Snyder, Dr. Allin and Jesse A. Willson, she opened a temporary home in the residence No. 1207 North Main street. She most faithfully and efficiently discharged her arduous duties in the care of over fifty children with insufficient accommodations, and was offered the position of superintendent of the permanent home in June, 1869, by the

unanimous vote of the trustees, but was obliged to decline on account of the ill health of her daughter.

Mr. Merchant was first appointed city engineer of Bloomington, in 1869, largely through the influence of Thomas J. Burn, then alderman from the second ward, who from that time on has always been a warm friend of our subject. The office was filled by Mr. Merchant continuously until August, 1880, when he resigned on account of a disagreement with the mayor, but was reappointed in 1882, and served that year and the following under Mayor John W. Trotter. Since then he has not been connected with municipal engineering. In the spring of 1869 Bloomington was a mud town, there being several weeks during which no loads could be hauled from the Chicago & Alton and Illinois Central railroads. The engineering work that year consisted in paving the streets from each depot to the public square, the Illinois Central bringing stone from La Salle and the Chicago & Alton from Joliet for paving Grove street and two blocks on Main from the Illinois Central depot, and Chestnut street from the railroad to Center and south on Center to the square. Previous to this time there were no pavements, no sewers, no brick sidewalks and no water supply. During Mayor Bunn's administration, in 1870, Nicholson pavement was laid on the north and west sides of the public square, and the history of the pavements from 1870 to 1877, when the first solid block of brick pavement was laid on the west side of the square, was a succession of trials and failures with everything that could be laid that would not take the property to pay for it. The first block of brick pavement laid in the United States was on the west side of the square in Bloomington,

but to-day it is safe to say that more square yards of this pavement are laid in cities from five to one hundred thousand population than all others combined.

The building of sewers was commenced under Mayor Funk's terms from 1871 to 1875, and the water-works under the same mayor. Mr. Merchant superintended the construction of the water-works, preparing all descriptions for ordinances and making all plats of property and lists of persons specially assessed. The stand-pipe which gives Bloomington the best of equalized pressure for distribution of water through the mains was constructed under his immediate supervision from plans drawn by James P. Berkenline, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and he also originated the system of records in the engineer's office. From May, 1884, until March, 1888, he was engaged in contracting and in engineering for tile drainage of farms. He was then employed by the executors of the estate of the late David Davis as business manager, under their direction taking charge of the improvements on farm lands and keeping books and accounts of the estate until the death of Henry S. Swayne, one of the executors, in 1893, since which time he has acted as business agent for Mrs. Sarah (Davis) Swayne, one of the two heirs of David Davis.

In his political relations Mr. Merchant is independent, voting for the man rather than the party. He has always taken an active interest in the welfare of Bloomington and his abilities have been exerted in her behalf, so that she now ranks among the best and most attractive cities composing this great commonwealth. He is an excellent business man—one who has a peculiar faculty for organizing and system-



atizing all his business affairs, and he is a genial, affable gentleman who makes many friends. His wife has been a member of the Second Presbyterian church of Bloomington for over thirty years, and is a most estimable lady.

SAMUEL B. WILLERTON, who is engaged in farming and stock raising on section 35, Danvers township, was born in Oswego, New York, September 22, 1865, and is the son of Christopher and Harriet (Baldwick) Willerton, who located in McLean county shortly after his birth. Christopher Willerton was born November 23, 1818, in Lincolnshire, England, and was the son of William Willerton, a dry-goods merchant of Gosberton, Lincolnshire, England, who lived and died in his native country. He grew to manhood in his native county, and after receiving his education engaged in farming. On the 11th of February, 1846, he was united in marriage with Miss Harriet Baldwick, also a native of Lincolnshire, born March 28, 1827, and daughter of Robert and Frances (Bell) Baldwick, who were likewise natives of Lincolnshire, and who there spent their entire lives. They were the parents of seven children, of whom Mrs. Willerton was third in order of birth.

After his marriage, Christopher Willerton, continued to engage in farming in his native land until 1852, when with his family he came to the United States and located in the city of Oswego, New York, where he was engaged in the grain business for thirteen years. He then came to McLean county, Illinois, and locating in Danvers, he ran an engine in a mill for a short time, and then purchased a tract of land in Dan-

vers township, commenced farming. He continued actively engaged in farming and stock raising until 1887, when he moved into the village of Danvers, where he lived retired during the remainder of his life, his death occurring April 27, 1895. His wife yet survives him, and makes her home in Danvers. They were the parents of seven children. Robert C. is now residing in Rock Island, Illinois. Emma makes her home with her mother in Danvers. Martha is the wife of Phineas Stubblefield, and they reside in Bloomington. John is an architect, and resides in Chicago. Albert resides in Farmer City, Illinois, where he is engaged in the mercantile business. Anna is the wife of William Foreman, and they reside in Bloomington. Samuel B. is the subject of this sketch. In politics the father was a Republican, and religiously was a Congregationalist. His wife is also a member of the Congregational church.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood on the farm in Danvers township, and in the schools of the township he received his primary education. This was supplemented by an attendance of one year and a half in the high school in the village of McLean. After leaving school, he rented a piece of land in Danvers township and engaged in farming. In 1890 he was united in marriage with Miss Ella Skaggs, a native of Danvers township, and daughter of Dr. J. M. Skaggs, of whom further mention is made in the sketch of L. E. Skaggs, on another page of this work. By this union there are two children—Ada V., born August 20, 1892, and who is now attending the district school; and Parke E., born May 15, 1895.

In politics Mr. Willerton is a Republican, his first presidential vote being cast for



Benjamin Harrison, in 1888. The only local position filled by him has been that of school director. Fraternally he is a member of Danvers Camp, M. W. A. His wife is a member of the Baptist church. They have both many friends in the community where almost the entire life of the one has been passed, and the entire life of the other.

**A**LBERT FULTON, who operates the Morrow homestead of one hundred and twenty acres on section 8, Randolph township, within three miles of Heyworth, has distinguished himself as one of the most active and enterprising citizens of the community.

One of the honored native sons of McLean county, Mr. Fulton was born in the city of Bloomington, April 6, 1855, and is a worth representative of one of its highly-respected old families. His paternal grandfather was William Fulton, who was born in Pennsylvania, in 1792, and was an own cousin of the noted Robert Fulton, the steamboat inventor. When a young man he went to Ohio and became one of the first settlers of Harrison county, where he remained until 1851, when he came to McLean county, settling near Bloomington, where he died February 18, 1871. In Harrison county, Ohio, James Fulton, the father of our subject, first opened his eyes to the light of day in September, 1826, and there he grew to manhood and in 1853 married Miss Mary Boyd, also a native of that county. Her parents, William and Ann Boyd, were both born in Ireland. James Fulton continued to engage in agricultural pursuits in his native county until 1851, when he came west with his father

and took up his residence on the old Judge Davis farm, only a mile and a half east of the court house in Bloomington, where he made his home until 1853, when he returned to Ohio and was married; then returned and was engaged in merchandising in Old Town for some years, and while residing there his first wife, who was the mother of our subject, died August 1, 1856. Some years later he wedded Mary E. Bishop. He finally removed to Downs township, where he purchased a partially improved farm, to the further development and cultivation of which he gave his time and attention until called from this life. He enlarged and remodeled the residence, built a good barn, and converted it into one of the best improved places of the neighborhood. There he died, September 8, 1892, at the age of sixty-six years, honored and respected by all who knew him. His wife still survives him and resides on the old home place in Downs township. By the first marriage there were two children: Eliza, now the wife of B. H. Black, of Harrison county, Ohio; and Albert, the subject of this review. By the second marriage there were five children: Belle, wife of A. J. Welch, of Downs township; Elizabeth died in infancy; John died in infancy; Mattie E., wife of Joseph Brown, of Randolph township; and James F. resides on the home place.

Reared in this county, Albert Fulton was educated in the public schools of Bloomington and early in life acquired a good practical knowledge of every department of farm work. He accompanied his father on his removal to Downs township, and aided him in opening up and developing the home farm, remaining under the parental roof until twenty-five years of age.

On the farm in Randolph township, where he now resides, Mr. Fulton was married, October 13, 1880, to Miss Mattie Morrow, a native of Clinton county, Ohio, and a daughter of Almon and Ruth (Templin) Morrow, also natives of the Buckeye state. In 1860 the Morrow family came to Illinois and first located in the southern part of the state, but a year later came to Heyworth, McLean county, where the father enlisted August 9, 1862, in Company B, Ninety-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and remained in the service until the expiration of his three-years' term, when he was honorably discharged July 17, 1865. With his regiment he participated in a number of important engagements and many skirmishes and was found at his post of duty, bravely defending the old flag and the cause it represented. While at the front, his wife and child returned to their old home in Ohio, where he rejoined them at the close of the war, but in the fall of 1865 the family again came to McLean county. Two years later they located on the present farm of our subject, which Mr. Morrow operated for some years, but is now living retired in Heyworth, enjoying a well-earned rest. Mrs. Fulton was reared and educated in this county, and by her marriage to our subject has become the mother of five children, namely: Maude, who died at the age of three years; Elmer, Mary M., Ruth Amanda and Ada Ruby, all living.

After his marriage, Mr. Fulton lived for five years upon his farm of eighty acres in Downs township, and then removed to the Morrow homestead in Randolph township, where he still resides. He has assisted in the improvement and development of this property. He is still the owner of eighty acres of well-improved and valuable land in

Downs township, and is meeting with excellent success in his farming operations. His political support has always been given the men and measures of the Republican party since casting his first presidential vote for Rutherford B. Hayes in 1876, but he has never cared for political office. He has, however, been a member of the school board eight years, and is clerk of his district. Both he and his wife are earnest members of the Presbyterian church of Heyworth, and have a host of friends and acquaintances who esteem them highly for their genuine worth.

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EDWARD KINSELLA, a prosperous and enterprising farmer residing on section 33, Gridley township, is the owner of three hundred and twenty acres on that section and one hundred and seventeen acres in Money Creek township, comprising nearly four hundred and forty acres. He was born in county Wexford, Ireland, June 20, 1845, and is the son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Lawless) Kinsella, both of whom are natives of the same county. Thomas Kinsella was reared a farmer, an occupation which he followed during his entire life. Realizing that Ireland was not the place in which to rear a family and give them opportunities in life which should be enjoyed by every free man, he determined on emigrating to the United States. In 1850, with his family of four sons, he set sail for this free country, and in due time landed in New York city, from which place they went to Onondaga county, New York, and there remained until the spring of 1857, when they came to McLean county. The two eldest sons, however, had preceded the rest of the family, having first

visited Iowa, and returning, had located in Funks Grove township, where they rented land from Isaac Funk. In that township the father also settled, and there remained until 1862, when he moved to Normal township, and renting the Carlisle farm, there spent the remainder of his life, dying in January, 1865. The four sons which accompanied him to this country were Thomas, for many years a prosperous farmer of Funks Grove township, but who is now living retired in the city of Bloomington; James, a farmer of Livingston county; Michael, a farmer of Towanda township, and Edward, our subject.

Edward Kinsella was but five years of age when he came with his father to the United States, and but twelve years old when he came to McLean county. In the schools of Onondaga county, New York, and in those of McLean county, he received his education, but he is mostly self-educated. His entire life has been spent upon the farm, and he early learned to be up with the lark and toil early and late in order to provide for the wants of the family. In the fall of 1864, with one of his brothers, he went to Blue Mound township and purchased the farm of George W. Stipp, paying for the same twenty-five dollars per acre. This was owned and operated in partnership until January 3, 1869, when he was united in marriage with Mary E. Urel, daughter of John and Bridget (Lyon) Urel, who was born in Herkimer county, New York; both of whom were natives of Tipperary, Ireland. By this union there were eight children, five sons and three daughters, as follows: Charles W., born October 4, 1869; John H., June 28, 1872; Thomas H., February 17, 1878; Edward W., February 15, 1880; Albert, November

27, 1884; Elizabeth, born August 30, 1874, died December 8, 1886; Grace and Clara, at home.

After his marriage, Mr. Kinsella bought his brother's interest in the farm in Blue Mound township, and there resided until the spring of 1892, when he exchanged it for his present place. He has followed a general line of farming, including stock raising, in which line he has met with good success, feeding annually about two car loads of cattle. Coming to this country a poor Irish lad, by his industry and thrifty habits he has become one of the leading and successful farmers of the county. In the purchase of his first farm, he had to go heavily in debt, but he was determined to succeed. Others had succeeded before him, and he saw no reason why he should not also be successful. He was blessed with strong arms and good health, and with such capital, backed by a strong will, and assisted by his sons, he could not help but succeed. In politics he is a Democrat, and religiously a Catholic. His wife and family are also members of the Roman Catholic church.

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**WILLIAM J. RHODES.** There is particular satisfaction in reverting to the life history of the honored and venerable gentleman whose name initiates this review, since his mind bears impress of the historical annals of McLean county from early pioneer days, and from the fact that he has attained to a position of distinctive prominence in the community where he was born and where he has retained his residence until the present time, being now one of its revered patriarchs.

Near his present home, at the edge of Blooming Grove, Mr. Rhodes was born



February 16, 1825, a son of John H. S. and Mary (Johnson) Rhodes, whose sketch appears on another page of this volume. He was educated in the same neighborhood, conning his lessons in the old log school-house with split logs for benches. He obtained a good practical education, and was anxious to further pursue his studies, but during those early days his father was not able to give him better educational advantages than the common schools afforded. He remained on the home farm until twenty-four years of age, and being the oldest son was given charge of the place while his father and a Mr. Randolph went south to buy cattle which they brought home with them, leaving in the early spring and not returning until fall. This responsibility laid heavily upon our subject and often caused him many a sleepless night, but it developed his character and in many ways fitted him for a successful business career in later years. He had many hands working under him and it was to his own good judgment and able management that the farm was successfully operated during his father's absence.

On the 7th of September, 1849, Mr. Rhodes was united in marriage with Miss Sarah Martha Cowden, a daughter of Rives Cowden, a pioneer of Old Town township. His father then gave him one hundred acres of land, and he embarked in farming and stock raising on his own account. He is a man of rare judgment and good business ability, and as a stock dealer has met with most gratifying success, annually shipping several carloads to the city markets. He has made a specialty of cattle, but to some degree has also been interested in horses. Choosing a delightful location, he built thereon a beautiful home in 1873, which

together with its surroundings makes one of the most attractive homes in the community. To his original farm he has added until he now has three hundred and thirty acres of valuable land under a high state of cultivation and improved with good and substantial buildings.

Mr. Rhodes served as assistant supervisor of his township for one term, being elected on the Republican ticket. He was a supporter of the party at that time, but is now an ardent Prohibitionist, and was one of the pioneers in that movement, giving it his support when the party was not at all popular. For three years he made his home in Bloomington for the purpose of educating his children, and while there was the nominee of his party for alderman of the fourth ward. He was a prominent member of the Blooming Grove Grange, of which he was the first master, and which he represented in the State Grange for some years. He also attended the National Grange of Indianapolis and met many prominent men there.

Mr. Rhodes' first wife died in 1872, leaving five children, as follows: John R. William P. married Laura Johnson, of Bloomington, and now lives in Nebraska. Martha is the wife of J. Orendorph, of Kansas, and has three sons, Guy; Arthur D., who enlisted in the army during our late war with Spain; and Lester. Elder M., living near Heyworth, this county, married Nettie Mullinnix and has three children: George William, Lizzie Blanche and Glen. James, who lives near our subject, married Love Lindley and had three children, now deceased. Mr. Rhodes was again married, November 2, 1873, his second union being with Lizzie Arnold, by whom he has one child, Sarah E., who married Harry E. Becker, of Jacksonville. They have one



child—William Rhodes Becker. Both Mr. and Mrs. Rhodes are earnest and faithful members of the Christian church, of which he is an elder and one of the oldest in point of membership. He has ever been a liberal contributor to all objects tending to advance the welfare of the country, and in his daily walk has shown himself to be consistent with the beliefs which he professes, being generous and charitable in answering the appeals of the distressed.

EDWARD McREYNOLDS was for many years one of the most active, enterprising and energetic agriculturists of Allin township, McLean county, but is now practically living retired, enjoying a rest which he has truly earned. A native of Indiana, he was born in Posey county, June 26, 1846, and is a son of Leonard McReynolds, whose was born in Kentucky about 1802, and when a lad of thirteen years removed with his parents to Posey county, Indiana, where he attended school and worked with his father on the home farm until 1854, when he came to Illinois after the latter's death, which occurred in the Hoosier state November 7, 1867. On locating there his father had purchased eighty acres of timberland, which he assisted in clearing and improving, rendering it suitable for farming purposes. Leonard McReynolds was twice married, his first wife being Hulda Neal, by whom he had eight children. After her death he was again married in Indiana, his second union being with Mrs. Nancy (Reynolds) Estes, and to them were born four children, of whom our subject is one.

Edward McReynolds was about eight years of age when he accompanied his parents

on their removal to McLean county, Illinois, and to its public schools he is indebted for his educational advantages. The father had purchased one hundred and twenty acres of government land on coming to this state, erected good and substantial buildings thereon, laid many rods of tiling, and converted it into one of the most valuable farms of Allin township. In this work Edward bore an important part, giving his father the benefit of his labors until 1865, when he enlisted at the age of eighteen years in Company B, One Hundred and Fifty-second Illinois Volunteer Infantry, for one year. When the war ended he was honorably discharged and returned to the home farm, which he assisted his father in operating until the latter's death, which is shown above. Since then he has purchased the place and to it has added a fifty-acre tract, making a fine farm of one hundred and seventy, all under a high state of cultivation and well improved. With him his mother continued to make her home until she, too, was called to her final rest, April 3, 1891.

On the 28th of December, 1866, at the age of twenty years, Mr. McReynolds was united in marriage with Miss Sarah Endicott, then eighteen years of age. She, too, is a native of Indiana, but was reared and educated in Shelby county, Illinois, where their marriage was celebrated. Her parents were Absalom and Matilda Endicott, the former a native of Kentucky, the latter of Posey county, Indiana. Her grandparents came originally from Carolina, and were of Irish decent. Mr. and Mrs. McReynolds have two daughters, the older of whom is Cora, now the wife of Walter H. Fry, by whom she has five children: Pearly, Goldie, Lisle, Howard and Opal. Leora

Blanche, the younger daughter, graduated from the Stanford high school in 1898, and is now at home with her parents.

During the past fifteen years, Mr. McReynolds has made many improvements upon his farms, which add greatly to their value and attractive appearance, but for five years he has practically lived retired, though he still continues to reside upon the old homestead and superintends the work to a certain extent. He has always engaged in general farming and made a specialty of stock raising and has met with well-deserved success, so that he is now one of the substantial, as well as one of the most reliable and highly-esteemed agriculturists of his community. He and his estimable wife, who has indeed proved a true helpmeet to him, aiding him in every possible way, are both consistent members of the Cumberland Presbyterian church. In his political views, Mr. McReynolds is a Democrat, but he takes no active part in politics aside from voting. Educational interests have claimed considerable of his attention, and he has most efficiently served as school director in his township for a number of years.

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LEWIS C. HENDRYX is a retired farmer living in the little city of Le Roy, who has by his shrewd judgment, excellent management and fair business transactions, acquired sufficient property to enable him to give up business cares and enjoy the result of his former labors.

A native of McLean county, Mr. Hendryx was born in Old Town township, April 4, 1838, and is a worthy representative of one of its honored pioneer families. His father, Allen Hendryx, was born in

Ohio in 1818, and during his boyhood came to this state with his father, John Hendryx, a native of New York and a pioneer of Ohio, who settled in what is now McLean county about 1828, being one of the first to locate in Old Town township, where he took up a claim, opened up a farm and spent the remainder of his life engaged in agricultural pursuits there. On reaching man's estate Allen Hendryx was married in this county to Miss Jane Frankeberger, who was born in Ohio, but was reared here. Her father, Rev. Jesse Frankeberger, was a prominent pioneer Methodist Episcopal preacher, of Illinois, who came to this county in 1829 and died in Bloomington in 1870 after a long and useful life. He was a fellow-worker with Peter Cartwright. After his marriage Mr. Hendryx operated the farm which he owned in Old Town township for some years, later spent ten years in Bloomington, after which he again lived on his farm until 1881, and then returned to Bloomington, where he died in 1891, honored and respected by all who knew him. Prior to the civil war he was a staunch abolitionist and was connected with the underground railroad, being a firm friend of and co-worker with Owen Lovejoy. He was also a strong temperance man and was always an advocate of temperance principles. His estimable wife is still living with a daughter in Bloomington, a hale and hearty old lady of eighty years.

Lewis C. Hendryx is one of a family of ten children, six sons and four daughters, all of whom are still living with the exception of one daughter. He was reared to farm work, and on starting out for himself chose the life of the agriculturist. He began operations upon a five-acre tract of brush land in Dawson township, which he

cleared, fenced and improved, and as time passed he added to it more land as his means would permit until he owned two hundred acres, which he converted into a fine farm. He had one of the largest orchards in the township, which contained a fine variety of choice fruits, and was quite successfully engaged in general farming, stock-raising and dealing. He commenced life for himself empty-handed and the accumulation of this valuable property was due entirely to his own industry, enterprise and good management. He also owns a good home in Le Roy, where he is now living retired. They also own residence property in Normal, also the residence adjoining his own in Le Roy.

In Dawson township, April 4, 1859, Mr. Hendryx was united in marriage with Miss Mary Jane Frankeberger, also a native of McLean county. Her father, Benjamin Frankeberger, was born in Ohio, and at an early day came to this county, where he married Orvilla Hendryx, also a native of Ohio, who was brought here when a child of eight years. For some years they made their home at Wyand, Bureau county, near Princeton, and there the father died in 1858, while serving as deputy sheriff of Bureau county, Illinois. Mrs. Frankeberger survived him many years and reared their family. She spent her last days with Mrs. Hendryx and died in Le Roy, April 1, 1899, when nearly seventy-seven years of age. The children born to our subject and his wife are as follows: William, a business man of Le Roy; Silas, a traveling salesman residing in the same place; Ida Belle, wife of George Sutton, a farmer of Dawson township; Peter Price and Lillie May, both at home; Miner, a farmer of Dawson township; and Lewis and Minnie, both at home.

Since casting his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln, in 1860, Mr. Hendryx has never failed to support each Republican candidate for that office, and though he takes an active interest in political affairs and does all in his power to insure the success of his party, he has never sought official preferment for himself. Both he and his wife are prominent and influential members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Le Roy, with which he has long been officially connected, serving as a trustee for four years. Mrs. Hendryx has been church steward for years, and is a member of the state board for the Girls' Industrial Home at Bloomington. He has taken thirteen children to this home, and has selected and fitted up a hospital room in their new building, furnishing it completely, and giving it the name of Le Roy. The poor and needy always find in Mr. and Mrs. Hendryx friends, and no one is ever turned away hungry from their door. They have labored untiringly for their church and the betterment of their fellow men, and as earnest Christians, honored pioneers and highly esteemed citizens of the community, they are certainly deserving of prominent mention in the history of their native county.

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JOHN H. S. RHODES. No state in the Union can boast of a more heroic band of pioneers than Illinois. In their intelligence, capability and genius they are far above the pioneers of the eastern states, and in their daring and heroism they were equal to the Missouri and California Argonauts. Their privations, hardships and earnest labors have resulted in establishing one of the foremost commonwealths in America,



the possibilities of which are far greater than those possessed by any of her sister states. The material advancement of the prairie state is the wonder of the world, and it has been largely secured through the sturdy and intelligent manhood of her early settlers with their moral, intellectual and physical stamina; but their work is nearly completed, and every year sees more new graves filled by those who helped to build an empire, and soon, too soon, will the last of those sturdy pioneers be laid away; but their memory will forever remain green among those who live after them and appreciated their efforts.

The name of John H. S. Rhodes was perhaps more closely associated with the earlier history of McLean county than any other, as he was one of the first to locate here and took quite an active and prominent part in her upbuilding and development. He was born in Maryland, October 16, 1796, a son of Ebenezer and Mary (Starr) Rhodes, representatives of old and highly-respected families of that state. The father, who was born in Holland in 1780, served as an orderly sergeant in the war of 1812, came to Illinois in 1822, and first located at Springfield, but in April, 1823, came to McLean county, and his was the third family to settle at Blooming Grove, where he took up a claim and subsequently became the owner of three hundred acres of what is now very valuable land. He was a Baptist minister at one time, but afterward united with the Christian church, and was one of the first preachers of that denomination in this section of the state. He performed the ceremony in October, 1824, which united the first couple ever married in McLean county. He continued to reside upon his farm until his death, which oc-

curred in 1842. His wife survived him many years, dying during the war of the Rebellion, in 1862 or 1863.

John H. S. Rhodes was educated in the schools of Maryland and Pennsylvania, and during his early manhood removed to Ohio, locating not far from Urbana, where he married Miss Mary Johnson. Soon afterward, in 1822, he came with his parents to Illinois, and after a short stay in Springfield came to Blooming Grove, McLean county, in April, 1823. He entered and bought land here from time to time until he became the owner of over one thousand acres, which together with his property in Eord and Macon counties aggregated over two thousand. With one or two exceptions, he was at that time the largest land owner in McLean county. He was also a prominent stock dealer and raiser of horses and in all his undertakings met with marked success, for he was a man of good executive ability and sound judgment. He was not only one of the most substantial, but was also one of the most reliable and highly-respected men of his community. He served as an officer during the Black Hawk war. He also served as a captain of the home militia. He was one of the charter member of the Christian church, which was organized in 1824 with only about seven members, and gave liberally to its support and to the erection of the house of worship, as well as to many other enterprises calculated to advance the moral, social or material welfare of his adopted country. The original papers of the Christian church are now in possession of his son, William J., whose sketch appears in another part of this work. His first wife died in 1845, leaving three sons, William J. and Aaron P.; and one who died later, and



he later wedded Mary Yazel, by whom he had four children. He passed away in 1875, honored and respected by all who knew him. His memory is a sacred inheritance to his children, and is cherished by a multitude of friends. Throughout his career of continued and far-reaching usefulness, his duties were performed with the greatest care, and during a long life his personal honor and integrity were without blemish.

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**G**EORGE BENDER, a thorough and skillful farmer and a business man of more than ordinary capacity, is a representative of the agricultural and stock-raising interests of Allin township. There he is recognized as an important factor in preserving the reputation of the township as one of the best in McLean county. He was born in Laubach, Hesse Darmstadt, Germany, May 20, 1844, and is a son of John and Christianna (Hildebrandt) Bender, also natives of that place, and representatives of old and highly-respected German families. Their marriage was celebrated in 1834, and to them were born three children, one son and two daughters. In his native land the father was overseer of a large farm and continued to hold that position until the emigration of the family to the United States in 1852. They first settled in Butler county, Ohio, where he rented a farm and engaged in its operation for eighteen years. Having been successful in his labors in that state, he came to McLean county, Illinois, in 1870, and invested his capital in eighty acres of land in Allin township, to the improvement and cultivation of which he devoted his energies for several years, transforming it into one of the valuable farms of

the township. There he died January 28, 1895, at about the age of ninety-one years, and his wife passed away October 8, 1883, at the age of seventy-three years, honored and respected by all who knew them.

George Bender, the youngest child of this worthy couple, came to the new world with his parents, and was educated in the public schools of Ohio and Illinois. He always made his home with his parents, but for some years prior to their deaths his labors went to benefit himself and he saved some money, which he invested in eighty-two acres of land. He has since purchased an eighty-acre tract which, with the eighty acres he received from his father's estate, makes him two hundred and forty-two acres of fine farming land under excellent cultivation. The greater part of this he rents, but operates eighty acres with good success, and in addition to general farming, devotes considerable attention to stock-raising. The last few years, however, he has practically retired from active labor and is enjoying the fruits of his former toil, having already made for himself and family a comfortable home and competence. Besides his farm property, he is a stockholder and director of the Peoples Bank of Stanford.

On the 16th of October, 1872, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Bender and Miss Mary Mehl, a daughter of Michael and Louisa Mehl, who has three brothers and two sisters living in Ohio and Illinois. She was born November 10, 1852, near Princeton, Ohio, of which place her mother was also a native, but her father was born in Germany and belongs to one of the old families of that country. Of the four children born to Mr. and Mrs. Bender, three are living, namely: Bertha L., who completed her education in the district schools, and is at

present at home with her parents; Ada Pearl and Mabel Edna, who are still attending the local schools. Mr. Bender is one of a family of three children, and he not only has the same number, but each of his sisters have three children. He and his family hold membership in the Christian church of Stanford, of which he is an elder, and politically he is identified with the Democratic party. He has capably served his fellow citizens as road commissioner and as school director for a number of years, always having taken an active part in educational affairs. His genial and jovial disposition has gained for him a host of friends, and he has the confidence and high regard of all with whom he comes in contact, either in business or social life, for he is upright and honorable in all his transactions and endeavors to do by others as he wishes to be done by.

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**DANIEL T. CRUMBAUGH.** The fitting reward of a well-spent life is an honorable retirement from labor, in which one may enjoy the fruits of former toil. Such has been vouchsafed to Mr. Crumbaugh, who for many years was prominently connected with the agricultural interests of McLean county, but has now put aside business cares. He resides in Le Roy, where he owns a beautiful home and also has an extensive tract of land in Empire township, the rental from which adds materially to his income.

Mr. Crumbaugh was born in that township, January 24, 1832, his father being Daniel Crumbaugh, and his brother, L. A. Crumbaugh, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. He spent his childhood days on the home farm, his time

being occupied with the labors of field and meadow through the summer months, while in the winter season he pursued his education in a log school house where school was conducted on the subscription plan. Experience, reading and observation in later life have made him a well-informed man and activity in business has brought to him a handsome competence. He remained with his father until he had attained his majority and then in connection with his twin brother, Thomas, purchased a tract of raw land of one hundred and sixty acres, which they broke and fenced and transformed into productive fields. Subsequently they bought another quarter-section, and after some time divided their property, our subject retaining possession of the original purchase. As his financial resources increased he extended its boundaries by the additional purchase of one hundred and forty acres, making the home farm three hundred acres in extent. He also made judicious investments in other lands and owned at one time about one thousand acres, all in McLean county. The progressive and enterprising spirit of the owner was shown by the excellent improvements which he made on the home farm. He erected a good residence and a large barn, but the latter was afterward destroyed by fire. He drained the place by laying many rods of tiling, planted an orchard and many ornamental trees and was the owner of one of the valuable farming properties of the county. He thereon made his home until 1894, when he built a fine and commodious residence in Le Roy and has since lived retired. He has divided his land among his children, thus enabling them to make a good start in life unhampered by the lack of means which he experienced. He has

been the architect of his own fortunes and has builded wisely and well. He started out in life for himself a poor boy and engaged in breaking prairie for fourteen years. To-day as the result of his sagacity, labor and business ability, he is ranked among the most substantial citizens of his community.

Mr. Crumbaugh has been twice married. In 1859, in Moultrie county, Illinois, he married Margaret Wiley, who was born in McLean county, but was reared in Moultrie county. She died in 1865, leaving three children: David, who holds a responsible position in the Citizens Bank of Le Roy; Maggie, who became the wife of Pleasant Parke, and after his death married Newton Hart, her home being now in Fairfield, Illinois; and Daniel T., Jr., a farmer of McLean county. Mr. Crumbaugh was married again November 22, 1869, his second union being with Anna Stine, a native of Indiana, who was brought to Illinois in 1845, by her father, Elias Stine, a pioneer of McLean county. When a young man he had removed from Pennsylvania to Indiana and had there wedded Mary Lantz, a native of North Carolina. By the second marriage of our subject there is one son, James Wilmer, a railroad man living in Slater, Missouri.

Mr. Crumbaugh exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the Democracy, and cast his first presidential ballot for James Buchanan in 1856. Political office, however, has no attraction for him, as his time has been fully occupied by his business interests. He sustains an unassailable reputation among business men, and his sterling worth has won him high esteem throughout the county. For sixty-seven years he has been num-

bered among its residents and is a worthy representative of a family that through seven decades has borne a conspicuous part in the public and business life of this section of the state.

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**ELIAS BROCK.** If one desires to gain a vivid realization of the rapid advance in civilization which the last few decades have brought about, he can listen to the stories that men who are still living among us, and by no means overburdened with years, can tell of their boyhood. The log cabin in the clearing; the still ruder school-house, with its rough seats made of slabs, its limited range of studies and its brief terms arranged on the subscription plan; the routine of work at home unrelieved by any of the modern devices by which machinery is made to do in a short time what formerly occupied the entire year;—these and many similar descriptions will bring up in sharp contrast the advantages of to-day. The subject of this sketch, a venerable and highly respected citizen of Randolph township, residing on section 7, can relate many interesting reminiscences of this sort. Since 1829 he has been a resident of this state, and has made his home in McLean county since 1840.

Mr. Brock was born in Madison county, Ohio, December 10, 1824, and when a child of five years was brought to this state by his parents, Elias and Elizabeth (Allerton) Brock, who spent the first winter here in De Witt county. In 1830 they removed to Sangamon county and located near Springfield, which was then a little village of log huts and shanties. There they lived during the winter of 1830–31, which was known as the winter of the deep snow, and several



years later returned to De Witt county, where our subject grew to manhood.

Early in life Mr. Brock began to trade and deal in stock, and before the day of railroads drove his stock across the country to the Chicago market. His first purchase of land consisted of a wild tract of forty acres in De Witt county, which he broke and improved, successfully carrying on operations there as a farmer for about eleven years. Later he bought forty acres in Funks Grove township, McLean county, and his next purchase was one hundred and sixty acres where he now resides. This he bought on credit and paid ten per cent. interest on the amount, but as time passed prosperity seemed to smile upon his efforts, and as his financial resources increased he enlarged his home farm until he has now a valuable place of three hundred and thirty acres, which he has placed under a high state of cultivation and improved with good buildings. Besides this property, however, he now owns a farm of four hundred and eighty acres in Funks Grove township; fifty-eight acres in De Witt county; all of above land joins; forty acres in Williamson county, Illinois; and one hundred and sixty acres in McPherson county, Kansas. Throughout his active business career he has continued to devote considerable attention to the raising, feeding and dealing in stock, shipping annually several car loads to the city markets. That he is one of McLean county's most able and practical financiers and successful business men is evidenced by his life record, for he began his career with no capital and has accumulated his large estate through his own labor, perseverance and good management.

In DeWitt county, Mr. Brock married Miss Christina Ellinton, a native of that

county, and to them have been born six children, as follows: A. W., a farmer of Randolph township; Russell, a farmer of Funks Grove township; Elizabeth, wife of William George, an agriculturist of the same township; Cassius E., a farmer of this county; and Martha, wife of Herschel Stillman, of De Witt county.

Mr. Brock was a soldier of the Mexican war and was under the command of General Scott in Mexico and New Orleans. In his political views he is a Jeffersonian Democrat, and since attaining his majority has never failed to support that party. He has never had much time to devote to public affairs, though years ago he served for four years as township assessor. Socially he is a Master Mason. He is widely known and highly respected, and this brief record of so honored a pioneer and worthy citizen of McLean will be read with especial interest by his many friends and acquaintances.

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PETER WINTZ, an honored and highly esteemed citizen of Carlock, was for many years prominently identified with the agricultural interests of McLean county, but is now living retired, though he still owns a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres adjoining the village, on the northeast quarter of section 36, White Oak township. He was born in Culpeper (now Rappahannock) county, Virginia, September 5, 1825, a son of Henry and Sarah (Fry) Wintz. The father was born in the same county April 17, 1788, and died October 27, 1833, while the mother was born in Loudoun county, Virginia, February 19, 1797. Our subject is the oldest of their five children, the others being as follows: Philip, born



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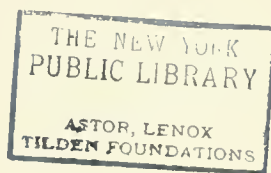
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PETER WINTZ.



MRS. CATHERINE A. WINTZ.





November 4, 1826, is now a resident of Henry county, Illinois; Mary, born August 22, 1828, married Samuel Fry, a distant relative and died May 25, 1891, at her home in Sedgwick county, Kansas; Daniel, born June 16, 1831, is a resident of Howard county, Indiana, and Elizabeth, born March 23, 1833, is the wife of George Lowman, of Harvey county, Kansas. The father was a natural mechanic, but throughout the greater part of his life followed the occupation of farming. About 1827, he removed with his family to Warren county, Ohio, and a year later to Preble county, that state, where he was living at the time of his death. In his political affiliations he was a Whig.

Upon the death of the father, the mother was left in rather limited circumstances, and with five small children depending upon her, our subject, the oldest, being but eight years of age. She was, however, an industrious and thrifty woman and a good manager, so that she was finally able to purchase forty acres of land, to which she later added thirty acres. Our subject was of great assistance to her, and at the age of ten years took his place at the head of the family, doing such work upon the farm as hoeing, cradling grain, etc. He was practically the head of the family until his marriage, and as the mother died about that time the family became broken up and scattered. In connection with farming he also worked some at the carpenter's trade in Ohio.

On the 8th of April, 1852, Mr. Wintz led to the marriage altar Miss Catherine M. Fry, who was born in Preble county, Ohio, February 20, 1832, a daughter of Jonas and Christina (Null) Fry, also natives of the Buckeye state. On the third of May, following their marriage, the young people

started for McLean county, Illinois, where some Ohio acquaintances had previously located. With a team and wagon, containing all their earthly possessions, they made the journey, which consumed sixteen days, the mud and high water making the trip a difficult one, and on two different occasions they were compelled to hire ox teams to extricate them from the mud. Prior to coming to the state, Mr. Wintz had purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in White Oak township, which he still owns, and ten acres of tember land on section 4, Danvers township. Upon this land he broke the first furrow, as it was all wild and unimproved when he located thereon. His first home here was a frame house of but one room, fourteen by sixteen feet in dimension. After living here a year his father-in-law and family came to the county and located near him in Danvers township where Mr. Fry acquired a large tract of land, a portion of which subsequently came into possession of our subject and wife. At one time he owned a little over a section of land, but has since given the most of it to his children, retaining only the original homestead of one hundred and sixty acres. As a general farmer and stock raiser he met with most excellent success becoming one of the substantial and prosperous citizens of his community, and besides his property in this county he owned a half section of land in Sedgwick county, Kansas.

Mr. Wintz has been called upon to mourn the loss of his estimable wife, who passed away November 13, 1885. They had three children: Rozina E., born September 20, 1853, is the wife of Frederick Pease, of Sedgwick county, Kansas, and has a family of six children; Silas G., born September 4, 1855, died August 28, 1861; and Moses E.,

born June 19, 1859, is married and resides on the homestead farm.

Soon after the death of his wife, Mr. Wintz removed to Carlock, where he erected a pleasant residence in 1890, and has since lived retired, while his son operates the farm. Politically, he is a Republican, but favors the prohibition movements and votes for principle rather than party. He has refused all offices except those connected with the school or educational matters. Until recently he served almost continuously as school director and trustee, and introduced the petition for and was one of the prime movers in organizing the first school district on the prairie south of White Oak Grove, which was originally No. 7, but has since been divided into parts of three different districts. He has also taken a prominent part in church work and is now the only survivor residing in this county of the little band who organized the United Brethren church at Carlock, the others having either died or moved away. He has served as trustee, class-leader and superintendent of the Sunday school, and has given his support to every worthy enterprise for the public good. His has been a long and useful life, in which he has been found true to every trust reposed in him, and has gained the confidence and high regard of all with whom he has come in contact.

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JAMES SMITH, who for many years represented Money Creek township as a member of the county board of supervisors, is the proprietor of a fine farm on section 23, Money Creek township, known as Maple Lane farm. He was born in Ontario, Canada, November 10, 1837, and is the son

of Sylvester and Catherine Smith, both born in Canada. By trade Sylvester Smith was a carpenter, an occupation which he followed during his entire life. He met with his death, the result of an accident, when James was but two and a half years old. His good wife did not long survive him, and our subject was left an orphan at a very tender age. He was an only child, and their being no near relatives to care for him, he was taken and reared by strangers. In his youth he commenced to learn the shoemaker's trade, but not liking it, he abandoned it and spent two years at the carpenter's trade. He then accepted a position as a common seaman on the great lakes and spent one season. Realizing that the life was not such as was specially beneficial to a young man, he abandoned that occupation, and the summer of 1858 before he was twenty-one years old came to McLean county and sought employment as a farm hand. He was first employed in the hay field, and then assisted in threshing grain, for which he received fifty cents per day. Winter coming on he took a contract for cutting a lot of cord wood for Madison Young, of Money Creek township, and during the winter cut one hundred and ten cords, for which he received fifty cents per cord. The three years following, he spent as a farm hand, and in such employment as he could find.

The war for the union was now in progress, and calls were being issued for men to assist in restoring the government to its just rights. On the 26th of January, 1862, Mr. Smith enlisted in Company K, Twenty-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, under Captain Ira J. Bloomfield, of Bloomington, the regiment being under command of Colonel John M. Loomis, of Chicago. With his

regiment he participated in many battles and skirmishes during the continuance of the war. The first engagement was at New Madrid, Missouri, from which place they went to Point Pleasant, where they were sent to guard artillery which was placed so as to prevent the Confederates from carrying supplies to Island No. 10, and here it was said, by General Pope, in his official report, was the first instance in history of infantry defeating gunboats. A detachment of ninety sharpshooters were selected to pick off the men on the gunboats, and they were so successful that the boats were forced to desist in the attempt to land provisions on Island No. 10.

The next important engagement in which the Twenty-sixth regiment participated was that of Corinth, where after a two days' fight the rebels were forced to evacuate. Following the battle of Corinth, on the 3rd and 4th of October, 1862, the regiment was in the battle of Iuka. The regiment was later sent to Vicksburg, but was landed up the Yazoo river, where it was set to watch the rebels under General Joe Johnston. After the fall of Vicksburg it was sent to Jackson, Mississippi, and formed a part of Sherman's corps, and again were brought face to face with General Johnston, and defeated him after an engagement which ended July 16, 1863. Sherman's corps was then moved into Tennessee, and later was engaged in the battle of Missionary Ridge, where his command took an important part on Tunnel hill, being in the field from early in the morning until late at night, being under fire of both artillery and infantry, and at close range, the brigade in which was the Twenty-sixth suffering great loss in killed and wounded.

The regiment was next sent with others

to reinforce General Burnside, who was confronted by General Longstreet at Knoxville, Tennessee. When within seven miles of that place they were met by the Seventh Ohio Cavalry, who reported that Longstreet had retreated. This entire march of about one hundred miles, and which occupied four days, was made without government rations, being compelled to forage on the way, thus living off the country. From Knoxville they returned to Chattanooga, again living off the country while *en route*. A little later the regiment went into camp at Scottsborough, Alabama, where it remained until January 1, 1864. The regiment here re-enlisted as veterans, but our subject not having served quite two years, was ineligible for re-enlistment as such, but he was given a furlough, and after spending thirty days at home, went to Springfield, Illinois, and on the 7th of February, 1864, was sworn into the service as a veteran for three years, or during the war.

Soon after returning to the old camp at Scottsburg the army was reorganized, and the Twenty-sixth regiment became a part of the Fifteenth army corps, under General John A. Logan, and participated later in the campaign against Atlanta. In this campaign the regiment took a very active part, being in many engagements and skirmishes, and at all times doing its duty faithfully and satisfactorily to those in command. It next went into camp south of Atlanta, where it remained until in October, 1864, when General Hood started north. With other regiments it followed Hood for five days, and was then ordered to return to Atlanta, at which place they were stationed when the country was voting for the election of a president to succeed President Lincoln. While the Illinois boys were not



allowed to vote by ballot, as did regiments from some of the other states, they voted by means of coffee and beans. Those favoring the re-election of Lincoln voted with coffee, while those favoring McClellan voted with beans. It is needless to say that coffee had a large majority.

A few days later Sherman started on his celebrated march to the sea, and with him was the Twenty-sixth Illinois. At Savannah, Georgia, they spent Christmas Day, and from that place they were sent by water to Newbern, North Carolina, where they disembarked to engage in the campaign through North Carolina. Continuing on the march to Bentonville, North Carolina, they met Gen. Joe Johnston in force, and an engagement followed in which the Twenty-sixth participated. This was on the 21st of March, 1865. That night Johnston retreated, and our army following the next day. At Mill creek the rebels made a stand and attempted to destroy the bridge across the creek to prevent Sherman's army from crossing. Here a heavy engagement took place. Our subject was the color-bearer of his regiment and, with a companion, kept well to the front. They crossed the bridge in safety, but on reaching the opposite side he was struck by a musket ball fired at him by one of the enemy's sharpshooters, the ball striking his forearm and carrying away two and a half inches of one of the bones. A small book carried in his breast pocket deflected the ball, which would otherwise have passed through his body. The book had every leaf in it torn.

After receiving his wound, Mr. Smith was sent to the hospital at Goldsborough, North Carolina, where he remained ten days, going from there to Newbern, in the

same state, where he was put aboard the hospital ship. While at Newbern they heard of the surrender of Lee, and were greatly cheered by the same. On their arrival at New York on the 15th day of April their joy was turned into sorrow by learning of the death of President Lincoln. He remained in the hospital in New York for about ten days, and was then sent to the hospital at Madison, Indiana, and there remained until July 28, when he went to Springfield, Illinois, and met his regiment, which had just been discharged. This was on Saturday, and he had to remain until Monday, when he was discharged alone.

Immediately on receiving his discharge Mr. Smith returned to his old home in Money Creek township, and on the 17th of December, 1865, he was united in marriage with Miss Martha E. Biggs, daughter of Lemuel and Nancy (Mullen) Biggs, the former a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and the latter of Ohio, both, however, being early settlers of McLean county. Until about seven years of age, Lemuel Biggs resided with his parents in Delaware. They then removed to Ohio, where he spent his youth. When she was a girl of twelve years of age the parents of Mrs. Biggs came to McLean county, Mr. Biggs following some five years later. They were married in this county and became the parents of ten children, of whom eight are yet living, as follows: Andrew E., a farmer and stock-raiser of Bates county, Missouri; Josiah, a farmer of Money Creek township; William, a farmer residing in Arkansas; Sarah, who married George Davis, but died in 1866; Nancy J., wife of J. J. Kemp, of Lexington; Elizabeth, widow of John Armstrong, of Bates county, Missouri; Louisa, wife of William Arbogast, of Johnson



county, Missouri; Martha E., wife of our subject; Lemuel A., of Peoria, Illinois; and George F., who died August 26, 1888. The father of these children died May 7, 1860, at the age of fifty-five years, and his wife in 1893, when eighty-one years old. He was a substantial and successful farmer, and at the time of his death was the owner of eleven hundred and sixty acres of land.

After his marriage Mr. Smith engaged in farming on the farm where he now resides, and which was then owned by his brother-in-law, A. E. Biggs. He remained there one year, and the following year cultivated an adjoining farm. He then moved to Blue Mound township, where he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres and made that his home for thirteen years. He then returned to Money Creek township and resided for five years on the old Biggs homestead, carrying on that farm, in the meantime purchasing seventy acres on the north, where he erected a dwelling house in 1886, into which he moved with his family. He made that his home for five years. Selling his Blue Mound farm, January 13, 1890, he purchased his present farm, to which he soon removed and which has since been his home. His present farm consists of three hundred and thirty-two acres, and is known as the Maple Lane farm. In addition to this farm, however, Mr. Smith is the owner of a section of land in Custer county, Nebraska, which is rented.

In his farming operations Mr. Smith has made something of a specialty of raising fine bred Percheron horses and Poland China hogs, a line in which he has met with some degree of success. He has always taken more or less interest in politics, and since the war has given his support to the Republican party. While residing in Blue Mound

township he served three years as commissioner of highways, and since being a householder he has served as school director. In the spring of 1889, he was elected supervisor of Money Creek township, and by re-election served ten years in that responsible position. That he made a satisfactory official is certainly attested by his long service. Fraternally, he is a member of Lexington Post, No. 240, G. A. R., and is now past commander of the post. In religion he is a Methodist, holding membership with the Methodist Episcopal church of Lexington.

To Mr. and Mrs. Smith three children were born, the eldest dying in infancy. Joseph V., born May 19, 1869, was married February 12, 1894, to Miss Nellie Drury, of Lexington, Illinois. They now reside in Kansas City, Missouri, where he is employed in the secret service. Andrew J. yet remains at home, and is assisting in carrying on the home farm. The family are well known and highly respected, Mr. Smith being regarded as one of the substantial farmers of the county, and one who lives at peace with his fellowmen.

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JOHN DEUTSCH, a wealthy and prominent farmer of Bloomington township, where he owns and successfully operates one hundred and sixty acres of valuable land, was born near the city of Magdeburg, Prussia, Germany, August 30, 1835, a son of Peter and Katharina (Shenecal) Deutsch. The father, a native of the same place, was a roof-maker by trade, and continued to work at that occupation until coming to America in 1862. He and his wife then made their home with our subject in Bloomington, where the former died in 1884, aged

eighty-three years; the latter in 1876, aged seventy-six. They held membership in the Lutheran church and had the respect of all who knew them. In their family were six children, three sons and three daughters, all of whom came to McLean county: Joseph makes his home with our subject; Christ is employed in the Chicago & Alton Railroad shops at Bloomington; John is the youngest son; Mary is now deceased; Lizzie is the wife of Henry Eizenberg, who is engaged in farming in Hudson township; and Dora is the wife of Fred Wolcarr, of Bloomington.

John Deutsch received a fair education in his native land, and there worked on a farm until twenty-four years of age. With the hope of benefiting his financial condition in the new world he sailed for America in 1861, and on landing proceeded at once to Bloomington, Illinois, where he found work in the Chicago & Alton Railroad shops as a helper at the machinist's trade. It was not long before he had thoroughly mastered that branch of the business and was given employment as a machinist, working under Superintendent Reynolds of the car shop department for twenty-three years, or as long as he remained with the road. His superior soon found him to be a most reliable man as well as an expert workman, and he was given the most difficult and painstaking jobs to perform, most of the time having charge of the fitting up of brasses for axle oil boxes, which required great care, as rough brass meant heated boxes. He was the head man in filling all orders in this particular line, and when new patterns were cast it was his duty to finish them up with care, in which he displayed great ability. For almost a quarter of a century he was one of the best known ma-

chinists in the shops and had the entire confidence of the company.

On the 11th of March, 1864, Mr. Deutsch married Miss Elizabeth Benica, also a native of Germany, who in 1860 came to the United States with her father, Christ Benica. To this worthy couple have been born seven children who are still living, and one who died at the age of nine months. William, a fine mechanic, has now made his home in Kansas City for thirteen years. John, who now has charge of some machinery for John Evans & Sons, Bloomington, and held a position as engineer at the World's Fair for six months, married Louisa Baum and has one child, Harry Lincoln. Louis is at home with his parents. Matilda is the wife of Ernst Tepkie, of Twin Grove. Hulda, Annie and Edward are all at home.

On coming to America Mr. Deutsch was not only without capital but was unfamiliar with the English language, and there were but few Germans in the city at that time with whom he could converse. On landing in Bloomington he just had ten dollars, all of which was spent before he secured employment, and for the first year he worked for eighty cents per day. He was industrious and observing, however, and not only mastered the language in a short time, but also prospered in his new home, so that at the end of a year he was able to send for his parents, who he cared for until they were called to the world beyond. His first home here he erected at the corner of Poplar avenue and Empire street, which he has since sold, but still owns property on South Madison street in the city. Having been financially successful, Mr. Deutsche bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Bloomington township on retiring from the

machinist's trade, and has since devoted his attention to agricultural pursuits with marked success. In connection with general farming he is also interested in stock raising, keeping full blooded short horn cattle and Norman horses. Upon his farm he has a beautiful home of the regular old eastern type, situated on an elevation and surrounded by many fine shade trees and beautiful flowers, making it an ideal spot. He has devoted much time and money in keeping up his place and making a pleasant home for his family. Politically he is a staunch Republican and religiously both he and his wife are active members of the German Lutheran church, with which he was officially connected for sixteen years, while living in the city, serving most of the time as trustee and treasurer, and for about twelve years he was president of the church board. Since living on his farm he has been one of its collectors. He assisted in building the new church and also the parochial schools, being a member of the building committee at the time of their erection. He was the first officer on the church board and continued his connection with it for twelve years, or until his removal to the country. He has always taken a very active and prominent part in all church work, and as an upright, honorable man he is justly deserving the high regard in which he is uniformly held.

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**J**AMES VANCE, a well-known stock dealer and shipper of McLean county, and a prominent representative of the business interests of Le Roy, is a man of strong force of character, purposeful and energetic, and his keen discrimination and sound judgment are shown in his capable manage-

ment of whatever he undertakes. He dates his residence in Illinois from 1856 and in McLean county since 1877, and he has therefore witnessed much of the wonderful transformation that has taken place here in the last half century.

Mr. Vance was born on the 1st of December, 1852, in Pendleton county, West Virginia, of which his parents, Solomon and Rachel (Davis) Vance, were also natives, while the maternal grandfather, James Davis, was a prominent farmer and business man of that county. The father, whose birth occurred in 1800, was a well-educated man, who successfully engaged in teaching school during his early life. In 1856 he came west to Illinois and located in De Witt county, where as a farmer he continued to make his home throughout life. He died, however, east of Saybrook, in Ford county, while on a visit, October 13, 1872, at the ripe old age of seventy-two years. His wife had previously departed this life, dying March 10, 1866. As one of the prominent and influential citizens of his community, he was chosen to several local offices of honor and trust, including that of assessor. He possessed a retentive memory and was well posted on the leading questions and issues of the day, as well as on topics of general interest.

Our subject is the second in order of birth in a family of six children, all of whom reached years of maturity. They are as follows: Christina married Simon Hedrich and is now deceased; Levi is a resident of Wichita, Kansas; Talmadge is a farmer living near Webster City, Iowa; Rebecca is the wife of G. P. Spratt, whose home is near Parnell, De Witt county, Illinois; and Martha married John Ertle and died October 26, 1897.



James Vance passed his boyhood and youth in De Witt county, assisting in the work of the home farm during the summer season, and attending the common schools for a few months each winter. When a young man he became interested in buying and selling stock, to which business he has since given the greater part of his time and attention.

On the 21st of November, 1876, in De Witt county, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Vance and Miss Nancy M. Fuller, a daughter of Daniel and Sarah (Foley) Fuller, natives of Pennsylvania and Virginia, respectively. The father was reared in his native state and as a young man came west and settled in De Witt county, Illinois, where he was married. He became one of the most substantial farmers, stock-raisers, dealers and shippers in his section of the state, owning one thousand acres of land in De Witt county and a similar amount in McLean county. He spent the last nine years of his life in this county, where he died February 2, 1897, honored and respected by all who knew him. Mrs. Vance was born, reared and educated in Rutledge township, De Witt county, and is the second in a family of four children, the others being John W., a prosperous farmer and extensive land-owner of McLean county; Loaine, wife of George Helmick, a farmer of Farmer City, Illinois; and Emma, wife of Lincoln Bailey, of De Witt county. To our subject and his wife have been born two children, namely: W. D., who is a partner of his father in the butcher business in Le Roy, and also assisted in the labors of the farm; and Elizabeth M., a student in the Le Roy schools.

Mr. and Mrs. Vance began their domestic life upon a farm in McLean county,

where he first purchased twenty acres of improved land and in connection with its cultivation he continued to engage in the stock business. Later he bought a tract of seventy acres, and now owns one hundred acres, all in the same neighborhood, while his wife has a farm of two hundred and forty-seven acres adjoining, and another eighty acres in De Witt county. In the fall of 1898 they removed to Le Roy, where they purchased a pleasant home, and where since the fall previous Mr. Vance has conducted a meat market in connection with the stock business. He is one of the heaviest buyers and shippers of stock in this part of the county, handling on an average some four or five car-loads a week, and is now associated in business with W. H. Cline and other local dealers.

Politically, Mr. Vance is a pronounced Democrat, is unwavering in the support of the men and measures of that party, and cast his first presidential vote for Samuel J. Tilden. He takes an active and commendable interest in public affairs, especially along educational lines, and for twenty years has most efficiently served as a member of the local school board. As a business man he is energetic, enterprising and reliable, and as a citizen is ever ready to discharge every duty that devolves upon him, and his genuine worth and many virtues are widely recognized.

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HENRY L. BELL is the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of fine land in Danvers township, which he keeps under a high state of cultivation, and which is one of the best improved in the township. He was born March 14, 1849, in Augusta county, Virginia, and is the son of Abel G.



and Louisa (Xupia) Bell, both of whom were natives of Virginia, the latter being of French descent, her father being of French birth. In his native state Abel G. Bell was engaged in farming, an occupation which he followed during his active business life. In 1854 he came west, first visiting Iowa with a view of locating there, but not liking the state he came to McLean county, and selected a location in Danvers township. He died in the township in 1867 at the age of fifty-seven years. His wife survived him many years, dying in 1894. They were the parents of four sons and three daughters. John O. died at the age of eighteen years. Henry L. is the subject of this sketch. William, who was the twin brother of Henry, died when eight years old. Edgar died in infancy. Ella L. is the wife of Aaron Miller, of Hall county, Nebraska, and they have five children. Frank W. died at the age of twenty-six years. Alice died in infancy. In politics he was a Democrat, and religiously was identified with the Presbyterian church, as was also his wife.

The subject of this sketch was but five years of age when he came with his parents to McLean county, and on the home farm in Danvers township he grew to manhood, and received his education in the district school. He remained at home, assisting his father in farm work until his marriage in 1871 with Miss Lizzie Skaggs, daughter of Dr. J. M. Skaggs, of Danvers, of whom mention is made in the sketch of L. E. Skaggs. She died in 1881, leaving four children. Bertha is the wife of Isaac Dunlap, and they reside in Danvers township. Gertrude is the wife of George Dunlap, a brother of Isaac, and they have two children, Irene and Grace. They reside in Danvers township. Ada V. is the wife of

George Simpson, and they reside in Dry Grove township. Luella died at the age of nine months.

In 1887 Mr. Bell was again married, his second union being with Miss Mollie Dunlap, daughter of George and Mary (Nichols) Dunlap, and by this union there are two children, Henrietta E. and William D., both attending the district school.

In connection with his farming, Mr. Bell has given much of his attention to stock raising, especially to the Sprague and Norman draft horses, and has bred some very fine animals, a number acquiring considerable speed. He endeavors to raise the best stock, which always command the best prices. He has also devoted considerable attention to the raising of Poland China and Chester white hogs, and has been quite successful in this line.

For three years Mr. Bell served as road commissioner, and for a number of years he was one of the school directors of his district. In politics, he is a thorough Democrat. Religiously, he is a Baptist, holding membership with the church in Danvers. His wife is also a member of that body. Both are highly respected in the community, and Mr. Bell is regarded as one of the best farmers in the township.

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**W**ILLIAM M. FOWLER, one of the most honored and highly respected citizens of Randolph township, is now living retired on his farm on section 5, near Heyworth. His has been a long and useful career of ninety-two years, and one in which he has gained the confidence and high regard of all with whom he has come in contact. There is an old age that is a benediction to all that comes in contact with it,

that gives out of its rich stores of learning and experience, and grows stronger intellectually and spiritually as the years pass. Such is the life of Mr. Fowler, an encouragement to his associates and an example well worthy of emulation to the young.

He was born in Hillsboro county, New Hampshire, October 22, 1807, and is a son of Lemuel Fowler, who was born in Massachusetts, was reared in the old Granite state, whither his father, Lemuel Fowler, Sr., removed at an early day and there bought considerable land. In New Hampshire the father of our subject married Sarah Sweet, a relative of Leonard Sweet, the great lawyer and personal friend of Abraham Lincoln. Lemuel Fowler, Jr., was a sailor and followed the sea for some years in early life, but in 1810 removed to Morgan county, Ohio, secured a tract of wildland and turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, making his home there throughout the remainder of his life. When he located upon his farm the nearest postoffice was forty miles away, and the entire country was an unbroken wilderness. He died at a ripe old age, having survived his wife some years.

William M. Fowler, of this review, passed his boyhood and youth in Ohio and assisted his father in opening up the home farm. He also learned the shoemaker's trade and made boots and shoes for the entire neighborhood for twelve miles around. He conducted his shop in Ohio for about twenty-eight years, did half-soleing for ten cents, and worked very hard to support his family. Finally he was able to purchase a farm of eighty acres of which about ten or twelve acres had been cleared. To its improvement and cultivation he devoted the most of his time through the summer months. In this early days when money

was scarce he chopped and split rails for twenty-five cents per hundred and chopped cord wood for twenty-five cents per cord. Later he sold his first farm and purchased eighty acres of timber land in Noble county, Ohio, which he cleared and improved by the erection of a small frame house and a double log barn. Afterward he sunk an old oil well upon his place, from which he obtained three thousand barrels of oil, which he sold at a fair price. With the money thus obtained, he came west to Illinois in 1864 and in Randolph township, McLean county, purchased a partially-improved farm of three hundred acres, two miles from Heyworth. Here he has since made his home and has succeeded in converting the place into a most desirable and valuable farm. He has cleared and placed under cultivation eighty acres, and has laid from four to five thousand tiles, so that it is now well drained and capable of high culture.

In Morgan county, Ohio, on the 14th of December, 1826, Mr. Fowler wedded Miss Mary Hutchins, who was born in Maine, November 10, 1804, and a daughter of Hollis Hutchins, who was also born in Maine, and from there removed to Morgan county, Ohio, in 1812. Mrs. Fowler, who was a most estimable lady, a true helpmeet to her husband, a kind and indulgent mother and a consistent Christian, died in Randolph township, February, 1888. Seven children were born to our subject and his wife, who reached years of maturity: Mary married John Keller and settled in Ohio, where she died, leaving a family; Jane married Samuel Brown, who died at Nashville during his service in the civil war; Mrs. Elizabeth Keller, who died in McLean county; Mrs. Sarah McHugh, a widow living in this county; Lois, who married George

Dyer but is now deceased; Mrs. Margaret Wamsley, a resident of Iowa; and Sophia, deceased wife of Augustus Parker, a resident of Iowa.

Politically, Mr. Fowler was originally an old-line Whig, but cast his first presidential vote for Andrew Jackson, in 1828, since which time he has never missed a presidential election. On the organization of the Republican party in 1856 he joined its ranks and supported John C. Fremont and has since affiliated with it. The public schools have always received his hearty support and in Ohio he served as a member of the school board, and also for a time after coming to this county. For more than forty years he has been a sincere and consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and he has long been connected with the Masonic fraternity. He has always been a strictly temperate man, never using liquors at all until past the age of eighty years, and since then only for medicinal purposes. Upright and honorable in all the relations of life, he has won the friendship and high regard of all who know him, and he is certainly deserving of honorable mention in the history of his adopted county.

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FREDERICK BLUM, one of the self-made men of Bloomington township, whose early home was on the other side of the Atlantic, commenced life without other capital than his strong hands and resolute will, and has attained to a fine position, socially and financially, among his fellow-citizens. His home farm, which lies just east of the city, comprises one hundred and sixty-seven acres of valuable land, and besides this he owns another fine farm of

one hundred and twenty-seven acres on section 28, the same township.

Mr. Blum was born in the village of Weiwell, Baden, Germany, September 30, 1850, a son of Jacob and Elizabeth Blum. The father, who followed the occupation of farming in his native land, brought his wife and four children to the United States in 1864, two older children having already crossed the Atlantic ten years previous to this time. Our subject well remembers how strange and wild everything looked on his arrival in McLean county—the broad open prairies, few of the farms being fenced at that time. The father, with the assistance of his sons, bought and improved a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Towanda township, on which he spent his last days in comfort, dying there in 1876. His estimable wife passed away two years before his death. In this country they attended the Methodist Episcopal church, although they were reared in the Lutheran faith, and both were highly respected by all who knew them.

The subject of this sketch was educated primarily in the schools of his native land, but after the emigration of the family to this country, he continued his studies in our common schools for several winters and thus obtained a good knowledge of the English language. He worked with his two older brothers for nine years upon the home farm which they had purchased, although they came to America without capital, and it was wholly through their own industry, perseverance and good management that they acquired a competence. They finally sold the place. Our subject had previously married, in 1877, Miss Christiana Wolf, also a native of Weisweil, Baden, Germany, who came with her parents to the new



world and located in Bloomington. Of the six children born of this union, two died young, the others being Frederick, Jr., Tina, Balzer and Mamie.

In 1886, Mr. Blum made his first purchase of land, consisting of eighty acres near Padua, in Dawson township, to the improvement and cultivation of which place he devoted his energies for five years, selling it at the end of that time. In the meantime he bought eighty acres in Towanda township, and on disposing of that purchased the farm in Bloomington township, near the city, where he has since most successfully engaged in general farming. On the 1st of March, 1897, he bought the farm on section 28, previously mentioned, and is to-day one of the largest land owners in Bloomington township. For the success that he has achieved in life he deserves great credit for it is largely due to his own industry, perseverance and good business ability, and his career should furnish both lesson and incentive to the young who are forced to begin life for themselves without capital. Mrs. Blum received her share of her father's estate which has been of material assistance in the accumulation of their present property. Mr. Blum is an ardent supporter of the Republican party, and while living in Towanda township most efficiently served as school director and clerk, and always taking a deep and commendable interest in educational affairs. Religiously, he and his wife are members of the German Evangelical church of Bloomington.

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CAPTAIN JOHN HICKEY is one of the most prominent men of Chenoa. Young men in the past have often been deterred from devoting themselves to a busi-

ness life because of the wide-spread impression that such a life yields no opportunity for the display of genius. The time, however, has gone by when, other things being equal, the business man must take a secondary place to the lawyer, the doctor, the minister or the editor. In fact, as a rule, let the business man be equally equipped by education and natural endowments and you will find him to-day in every community exerting a wider influence and wielding a greater power than a man of equal capacity treading other walks of life. The "men of affairs" have come to be, in a large degree, the men upon whom the country leans. The subject of this sketch is eminently a "man of affairs," and is one of the worthy sons that the Emerald Isle has given to this country. He was born in County Tipperary, in May, 1838, and is a son of Michael and Catherine (Baker) Hickey, natives of Ireland. The former died in 1850, in his native land, and six years later his widow came to America, where she now resides with her son at the advanced age of ninety-seven years.

Captain Hickey was the second in order of birth of six children, three of whom are living. His earlier education was obtained in Ireland, and after emigrating to America he resumed his studies in the evenings. He was possessed of a natural inclination for knowledge, and though but thirteen years of age he appreciated to a certain extent the advantages of education. His first American home was in St. Louis, Missouri, where he entered the employ of the Wiggins Ferry Company, where he remained from 1856 until 1869, advancing with great rapidity from the position of watch-boy to that of captain, a position which he held with the full confidence of his employers. In 1864 he



purchased three hundred and twenty acres of prairie land in Lawndale township, McLean county, which he improved and brought to an excellent state of cultivation, and upon which he erected a residence and comfortable stables and outbuildings. In 1869 Captain Hickey resigned from the employ of the Wiggins Ferry Company, a loss which the company felt very keenly, and devoted his attention to the farm, where he lived thirteen years. He confined himself principally to stock-raising, producing a very fine breed of stock which was very much in demand throughout this and the surrounding states. In 1881 he removed to Chenoa where he purchased valuable business property. In 1883 he moved to Bloomington where he married Mrs. Catherine Hegan, the widow of Mather Hegan. He remained in Bloomington for five years, having in charge the management of his wife's property, and also his own in Chenoa. In March, 1892, his wife died and the same year he withdrew from active business life to enjoy a much deserved retirement. He is a devout member of the Roman Catholic church where he is always foremost in any charitable enterprise. In 1895 Captain Hickey was united in marriage to Mrs. M. Leadwith, the widow James Leadwith of Lincoln, Nebraska.

In politics he is an independent voter, casting his ballot for the best qualified for the position in question. He has been honored with several offices of trust and responsibility, offices which he has filled with much credit to himself. At one time he was made foreman of a grand jury where he won great renown. While a resident of Bloomington he was elected as a member of the board of supervisors, defeating a very strong Democrat in a Democratic stronghold. In Chenoa he has served as councilman and

alderman, and Chenoa knows no more public-spirited citizen than Captain Hickey. His first interest is always for the general welfare of the town and no effort is spared that will in any wise benefit the city of his adoption. In 1874 Captain Hickey was a delegate to the convention which nominated A. H. Stevenson as a member of congress from the thirteenth district, and it was principally due to the unrelaxing efforts on the part of Captain Hickey that the nomination was carried through. He was afterward endorsed by the Democratic party, and defeated General McNulty in the campaign of that year. A few weeks subsequent the Greenback party nominated Captain Hickey for sheriff of McLean county, and shortly afterward the Democratic party met and endorsed his nomination as they had done that of Mr. Stevenson. At that time the Republican party was in the majority by two thousand five hundred, but by the personal efforts of the two nominees and by their popularity with the masses, the majority was reduced to about three hundred. Captain Hickey is a most genial man to meet. He is a fine illustration of a self-made man, and his career should serve as a lesson to the young. He began his career under adverse circumstances, being compelled to make his own way and his success in life illustrates most forcibly the power of patient and persistent effort and self-reliance.

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ARTHUR V. PIERSON, one of the enterprising farmers of Lexington township, owns and operates a fine farm on section 15. He was born in Morrow county, Ohio, May 19, 1849, and is the son of James S. and Mary Jane (Morrison) Pier-son, both of whom are natives of the same

state. (See sketch elsewhere in this volume.)

The paternal grandfather, Arthur VanDyke Pierson, for whom our subject was named, was born in Sussex county, New Jersey, November 25, 1787, and his wife, Phebe Cook, was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, September 6, 1793. She was a daughter of Stephen and Sarah (McFarland) Cook, the former being a native of Morris county, New Jersey, born March 29, 1751, and the latter of Wooster, Massachusetts, born November 19, 1760. Stephen Cook followed the occupation of a farmer in his native state, and was married in 1775. In 1782 he moved to Washington county, Pennsylvania, where he lived until 1816, when he settled in Knox county, Ohio. His family was composed of seven sons and eight daughters, all of whom grew to mature years. He died in 1829 and his wife in 1851, at the age of ninety-one years.

Arthur VanDyke Pierson was the son of John and Sarah (VanDyke) Pierson, both natives of Sussex county, New Jersey. He was born on the 24th of May, 1758, and his wife on the 16th of March, 1760, who was the daughter of Nancy Schenck. They were the parents of eleven children, all of whom grew to maturity. He was a minute man in the Revolutionary war, serving as a volunteer in the First New Jersey Regiment for a time, and later with the Second New Jersey Volunteers. He continued in service throughout the entire war, and was in the siege of Yorktown. He was one of General Washington's life guard, under General William Colfax, while at Norristown in the winter of 1778-9. In the Second New Jersey regiment, he was in the company of Captain Richard Cox, while Colonel Ogden was in command of the regi-

ment at Yorktown. John Pierson died February 11, 1827, and his wife May 27, 1830.

The Piersons trace their ancestry back to John and Abraham Pierson, who were Normans and went to England with William the Conqueror. They were men of arms under that famous commander. The family in America was first represented by Abraham Pierson, who emigrated from Yorkshire, England, in 1639, and who located at Lynn, Massachusetts. On account of persecution because of his religious views, he later settled in Long Island, New York. He was a graduate of Oxford College, and in religion he was a Presbyterian. In his family were six or eight children, and Abraham, the first, born in Lynn, Massachusetts, is the one from whom our subject is descended. He was a graduate of Harvard College in 1662. He married Abigail Clark, and to them were born a number of children, of whom John, the father of John, of Revolutionary fame, was third in order of birth.

Abraham Pierson, the first of the family in America, moved from Long Island to Bramford, Connecticut, and was pastor there of the Presbyterian church. In 1665 he founded the town of Newark, New Jersey. Abraham, Jr., his son, was the first president of Yale College, serving from 1701 until his death in 1707. John Pierson married Ruth Woodbridge. He was a preacher of the Presbyterian faith, and was a graduate of Yale. His son, Abraham, the third, was the father of John, born in 1758, and of whom mention has been made as having served in the Revolutionary war.

The Cook branch of the family trace their ancestry back to Francis Cook, who, at the age of forty years, came to this country in 1620 in the Mayflower. The first

mention of the Cook family, however, of which any record is known, was in 1191, when Walter and Richard Cook were numbered among the Crusaders taking part in the Holy wars. Francis Cook located at Plymouth, Massachusetts. He married a lady whose Christian name was Esther, but of whom no record is made of her surname. They were married in 1609. One son, Jacob, was born in 1618, and was less than two years old when his parents landed on American soil. Jacob married Damaris Hopkins, who also came to America with her parents in the Mayflower. Of their children, Jacob, Jr., born in 1653, married Lydia Miller on the 18th of June, 1681, and to them were born another Jacob, in 1691. He married and had a son which he named Jacob, in 1725. This Jacob married Phœbe Lindley February 12, 1750, in Morris county, New Jersey, and to them were born five children, of whom Stephen, born March 29, 1751, married Sarah McFarland, and to them fifteen children were born. Sarah is the great-grandmother of our subject. Her daughter Phoebe, married Arthur VanDyke Pierson, who was a soldier in the war of 1812, serving in a company of Independent Rangers from Washington county, Pennsylvania, under Captain Patterson. He was married January 15, 1811.

The subject of this sketch was but four years old when brought by his parents to McLean county, and in the school at Pleasant Hill, Illinois, received his education. At the age of seventeen he quit school and gave his undivided time to assisting his father in the cultivation of the home farm. He remained at home, doing his share of the farm work until his marriage, March 30, 1876, with Miss Carrie Smith, who was born June 12, 1853, and daughter of Milton

and Lydia M. (Goddard) Smith. By this union three children were born. Lawrence Milton, born October 6, 1868, is now a student in Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois. Anna Mary, born July 19, 1882, is attending the high school in Lexington, Illinois. Madge, born October 2, 1888, is attending the home school in Lexington township.

After his marriage, Mr. Pierson built a good, comfortable home, which is yet occupied by the family. His farm, which consists of two hundred and sixty acres of excellent land, is kept under a high state of cultivation, and in addition to the raising of grain, he gives much attention to stock raising, principally cattle, hogs and horses. In politics he is a Republican, and cast his first presidential vote for General Grant. He has been a school director for twenty years, and is an elder in the Presbyterian church at Selma, Illinois. Fraternally, he is a member of the Royal Arcanum. Socially, he and his family are held in the highest esteem.

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ALLEN R. HOLLIS. The fine farm owned by this gentleman on section 14, Randolph township, McLean county, invariably attracts the eye of the passing traveler as being under the supervision of a thorough and skilled agriculturist, and a man otherwise of good business qualifications. He was born in Jessamine county, Kentucky, May 12, 1849, but since March, 1857, has made his home in this county. His father, Berry Hollis, was a native of Virginia and when a child went to Kentucky, where he grew to manhood. There he married Elizabeth Woods and for some years was a leading merchant of Midway, Kentucky. In 1857 he came to McLean county, Illinois,



and settled on a farm in Bloomington township, where he continued to make his home until called from this life in 1893, at the ripe old age of eighty-eight years. His wife still survives him at the age of seventy-six.

Allen R. Hollis was a lad of eight years when brought by his parents to this county, and as soon as old enough to be of any assistance he began to aid his father in the development and improvement of the home farm, remaining with him until reaching men's estate. In Blooming Grove, he was married October 27, 1872, the lady of his choice being Miss Olive J. Orendorff, a native of this county and daughter of Thomas Orendorff, one of the first settlers of Blooming Grove. Five children grace this union, namely: Estella, now the wife of Horace Ryburn, of Randolph township; Ernest, Pearl, Roy L. and Mabel, all at home.

For five years after his marriage, Mr. Hollis rented and operated a farm in White Oak township, and then rented a place in Randolph township for four years. At the end of that time, in 1884, he purchased the farm of one hundred and sixty-five acres where he now resides. It was then but partially improved, and to its further development and cultivation he has devoted his time and attention ever since. He has built a good residence and fences, laid tiling, set out an orchard, small fruit and ornamental trees, and made many other useful improvements, so that it is now quite a valuable farm.

Mr. Hollis is a stanch adherent of the principles of the Democracy, though at local elections he votes for the men whom he believes best qualified to fill the positions regardless of party affiliations. He has been honored with a number of township offices,

which he has most creditably and satisfactorily filled, serving one year as assessor, while at present he is president of the board of highway commissioners, of which he has been a member for near eight years. He has been a member of the school board for the past sixteen years and is now clerk of the district. His wife is a faithful member of the United Brethren church, and though he is not connected with any religious denomination he gives liberally to the support of that and other churches. Socially he belongs to Heyworth Lodge, I. O. O. F., and the Modern Woodmen of America. The success that he has achieved in life is due to his own industry, enterprise and good management, and for the same he certainly deserves great credit. His business methods have always been upright and honorable, and his course such as to commend him to the confidence and esteem of all with whom he comes in contact.

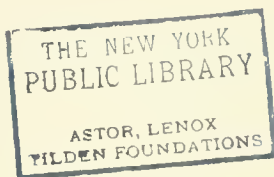
LEE RUST, a prosperous agriculturist residing on section 2, Randolph township, is a typical self-made man, and in the following record of his career there is much to arouse respect and esteem. He has placed his reliance upon industry and perseverance rather than "luck," and by making the most of circumstances, however discouraging, has made his way to a substantial success, his fine farm of nearly four hundred acres six miles from Bloomington being a tangible evidence of prosperity.

Mr. Rust is a native of McLean county, his birth having occurred in Randolph township, April 9, 1851. His father, John F. Rust, was born in Middle Tennessee, August 11, 1816, and was a son of William Rust, a hero of the Mexican war, who came





LEE RUST.



to Illinois in 1828, and in 1834 took up his residence in McLean county. The father of our subject began his business career at the age of sixteen years as a farm hand for Jesse Funk, by whom he was employed for seven years. He married Miss Elizabeth Lindley, a native of Kentucky, who came to this county when a child with her father, John Lindley, one of the early settlers of this locality. Mr. and Mrs. Rust began their domestic life upon a farm in De Witt county, building a log cabin upon his place, remaining there two or three years, and then removed to Randolph township, where he successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits until called from this life on the 1st of February, 1897. His worthy wife is still living at the age of seventy-six years. To them were born eight children, five sons and three daughters, who reached man and womanhood, and are now heads of families, namely: George W. and T. J., both farmers of Randolph township; Lee, our subject; Douglas, a farmer and stock-raiser of Newell, Iowa; Benjamin F., who owns and operates the old homestead; Elizabeth, wife of Martin Bishop of Bloomington; Alice, wife of John Kelley, of Randolph township; and Minnie, wife of John Fitzpatrick, of Randolph. One child died in infancy, one at the age of four years, and another at the age of nineteen years.

During his boyhood Lee Rust acquired a good practical education in the common schools and gained an excellent knowledge of agricultural pursuits upon the home farm. On leaving the parental roof he rented a farm of one hundred and thirty acres near the village of Randolph for three years, and in 1877 made his first purchase of land, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres, on which he has since made his home. He has extended the

boundaries of his farm from time to time, however, until he now has three hundred and seventy-eight acres of excellent farming land all in one body, and a ten-acre timber tract besides. Upon his place he has erected a large and comfortable residence, two good barns and other outbuildings; has set out small fruit and shrubbery; has laid many rods of tiling; and by good fences, has divided the land into forty-acre fields, so that now he has one of the best improved farms in the township. He has ever given considerable attention to raising, feeding and dealing in stock, and now ships to the city markets about ten car-loads of cattle and hogs annually. For the past three years he has also bought horses all over this part of the state and shipped them to Buffalo, New York. He is a straightforward and reliable business man, and his well-directed efforts have been crowned with a merited success.

On the 22nd of October, 1874, in Randolph township, Mr. Rust married Miss Mattie McFarland, who was born in Pennsylvania, but was reared and educated in Heyworth, this county. She is a daughter of Major J. C. McFarland, and a niece of Dr. McFarland, whose sketch appears on another page of this volume. Our subject and his wife have a family of eight children, all at home, namely: Anna, James, Clarence, Elmer, Gracie, Howard, Humphrey, Mabel, Walter Lee and Roy McFarland.

Mr. Rust has been a life-long Democrat, and cast his first presidential vote for Samuel J. Tilden in 1876. As a friend of education, he has done much to elevate the standard of the schools of his community while serving as a member of the school board for twelve years and as president of the district. He attends and gives liberally

to the support of the Presbyterian church, of which his wife is a member, and never withholds his aid from any object which he believes calculated to advance the moral, educational or material welfare of his native county.

ELIAS LANDIS, who is now living a retired life in the village of Downs, Illinois, was for many years one of the most active farmers and stock-raisers in McLean county. His residence in the county dates from 1854. He is second in a family of six children born to Jacob and Elizabeth (Gusler) Landis, all or whom are yet living as follows: Mrs. Caroline Huffer, of Indianapolis; Elias, of this review; Mrs. Sarah Lindimood, of Dayton, Ohio; H. G., a farmer residing near Reading, Lyon county, Kansas; Mrs. Mary Ann Poole, of Dayton, Ohio; and Jacob, a merchant of Reading, Kansas. The paternal grandfather, Peter Landis, was a native of Germany, who settled in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and lived to the ripe old age of ninety-three years. Jacob Landis was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, in 1796. He was there married to Elizabeth Gusler, also a native of Pennsylvania, but of German parentage. He was a carpenter and joiner by trade, and followed that occupation in early life. Later he engaged in farming, in which occupation he continued during his active life. He moved to Ohio in 1835 and located within one mile of Dayton, where he occupied a rented farm for eleven years. He later purchased a farm near the city, on which he lived until late in life when he came to Illinois and made his home with our subject, where his death occurred in November, 1881.

Elias Landis was born in Mifflin county, Pennsylvania, December 15, 1827, and was seven years old when the family moved to the vicinity of Dayton, Ohio. He there spent his boyhood and youth and was reared to farm life, attending the common schools as the opportunity was afforded him. In his youth or young manhood he worked at pump-making in various parts of Ohio, traveling in a wagon and carrying his tools with him. About January, or February, 1854, he came to McLean county and located in Bloomington, where he engaged in the manufacture of pumps, in which he continued for about four years. He not only manufactured, but put in his pumps in wells in almost every part of the county.

Mr. Landis was married in Bloomington township, December 15, 1858, to Miss Frances E. Cowden, a native of Allen county, Kentucky, who came to McLean county in early childhood with her parents and here grew to womanhood. Her father, R. C. Cowden, was a native of Virginia, who went to Kentucky with his parents when a lad of seven years, there grew to manhood, and married Mary Prunty, a native of Kentucky, who prior to her marriage was a teacher in her native state, and who also engaged in teaching after her removal to Illinois. Mr. Cowden was also a man of good education, and also engaged in teaching both in Kentucky and Illinois. He first located in Green county, this state, from whence he came to McLean county, being one of the first settlers of Old Town township.

After marriage Mr. and Mrs. Landis located in Bloomington township, where he rented land and engaged in farming for about seven years. In 1865 he purchased



a partially improved farm in Downs township, about two miles east of the present village of Downs, and into a small frame house on the place he moved his family. The tract comprised one hundred and six acres, eighty of which were in Downs township and the remainder timber land in Old Town township, and to its cultivation Mr. Landis turned his undivided attention. The house in which they lived was later destroyed by fire, and on its ruins he erected a larger and better residence, which was the home of the family until his retirement and removal to Downs. In his farming operations he met with a fair degree of success, devoting his attention to no specialty, but engaging in general farming and stock-raising. He always kept his farm under a good state of cultivation and his buildings in good repair.

Commencing life at the foot of the ladder, by hard work and perseverance he mounted rung by rung until he became one of the substantial farmers of the county, now owning, in addition to his farm, a good house in Downs, in which he lives at ease in retirement. While having no children of their own, Mr. and Mrs. Landis have taken, reared and educated three children. Politically, in early life he was a Whig, later identified with the American party, voting for Millard Fillmore for president in 1856. The American party being short-lived, he voted the Republican ticket until the organization of the Prohibition party, since which time he has voted with and advocated the principles of that party, believing that in them alone is the salvation of the country. He is usually found among the delegates to his party conventions, both county and state. While not caring for office, he has served as assessor of his

township, and for four years served as constable. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, with which his wife is also connected. They are firm believers in the Christian religion, and endeavor to walk in the footsteps of the Master. The forty-five years in which he has lived in McLean county have wrought some wonderful changes, and in the work of transformation he has done his part, and all who know them have a good word to speak of Mr. and Mrs. Landis.

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**ZACHARIAH LEWIS CARTMELL**, a thorough and systematic agriculturalist of Bloomington township, where for the past fourteen years he has owned and operated a fine farm of sixty-four acres, is a native of Ohio, born near Mechanicsburg, Champaign county, October 3, 1856, and is a son of Thomas and Susan (Longbreak) Cartmell, also natives of Champaign county, their respective families being pioneers of that region. The paternal grandfather of our subject, Jonathan Cartmell, was from Kentucky, while the maternal grandfather, Zachariah Longbreak, was from Lancaster county, Pennsylvania. The former was proprietor of a distillery and was one of the prominent and well-to-do citizens of Champaign county, Ohio, where he served as squire or justice of the peace for many years. In the county of his nativity the father of our subject grew to manhood, and there engaged in farming until 1864, when he moved to De Witt county, Illinois, locating near Waynesville. Later he returned to Ohio, but spent his last days in Barnett township, De Witt county, Illinois, where he died October 7, 1871. Upon the home farm there the mother is still living. She

is an earnest member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and is held in high regard by all who have the pleasure of her acquaintance.

Zachariah L. Cartmell, whose name introduces this sketch, received a good thorough education in the common-schools of De Witt county, Illinois, and at Marysville, Union county, Ohio. He assisted his father in the operation of the home farm until the latter's death, and then had charge of the place until he was married, December 30, 1879, to Miss Alice Harrold, of De Witt county. Her father, Mitchell Harrold, was a well-known and prominent pioneer of Wapella township, De Witt county, where Mrs. Cartmell was born. Three children blessed this union, but Laura, the first born, died October 31, 1898. She was a young lady of great promise and her death was mourned by a large circle of friends as well as her family. The other children are Nora Imo and Sophia, both at home.

After his marriage Mr. Cartmell sold his interest in the home farm and bought his present fine farm in Bloomington township, McLean county, in 1885. He has erected thereon a good house and made other improvements which add greatly to its value and attractive appearance, has laid many rods of tiling, and has placed the land under a high state of cultivation, so that it is now one of the most productive places of the locality. In connection with general farming he is engaged in stock-raising and feeding, and in his undertakings is meeting with well merited success. In his political affiliations he is a Republican, and he gives his support to all objects which he believes calculated to advance the moral, educational or material welfare of his community.

He attends and supports the Methodist Episcopal church of Bloomington, of which his wife is a sincere member.

**ROBERT C. HALLOWELL.** Prominent among the wide-awake, progressive and successful business men of McLean county is the subject of this sketch, a well-known furniture dealer of Le Roy. His life history most happily illustrates what may be attained by faithful and continued effort in carrying out an honest purpose. Integrity, activity and energy have been the crowning points of his success, and he is now one of the most prosperous business men of his community.

Mr. Hallowell was born in Cecil county, Maryland, April 21, 1834, a son of John and Sarah (Reynolds) Hallowell, both natives of Pennsylvania, where their marriage was celebrated. The father was born in Chester county and belonged to a family of English origin, which came to the new world with William Penn, first settling in Philadelphia. They were members of the Society of Friends and pioneers of Pennsylvania. From his native county John Hallowell removed to Cecil county, Maryland, and in 1844 became a resident of Champaign county, Ohio. There his wife died two years later, and he survived her but a few years, dying in 1851.

In Champaign county, Ohio, Robert C. Hallowell grew to manhood, and is indebted to the common schools of that state for his educational privileges. As a young man he came to Illinois in 1860 and located in Empire township, McLean county, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits for a few years. On the 21st of September, 1861, he responded to President Lincoln's call for troops to assist in putting down the rebellion, and be-

came a member of Company I, Thirty-ninth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. Although he enlisted as a private he was soon promoted to fife major, and served with that rank until the expiration of the term of his enlistment. As a member of the army of the Potomac he participated in a great many important engagements, including the battles of Winchester, Luray, Virginia, Deep Bottom and the many engagements before Richmond and Petersburg. Although he was never wounded, he suffered much from sickness. When his term of enlistment expired he was mustered out near Petersburg and honorably discharged in the fall of 1864.

Returning to McLean county, he soon afterward took up his residence in Le Roy, and in 1872 formed a business partnership and embarked in the furniture trade, which he successfully carried on until 1892, when he sold his store and removed to San Francisco, California. For three and a half years he was a resident of that most beautiful state, enjoying the salubrious climate and partaking of the delicious fruits of the Pacific slope. In 1895, however, he returned to Le Roy and again became interested in the furniture business. He is an up-to-date, thorough-going business man, whose success is due to his own well-directed and energetic efforts. He carries a large and complete assortment of furniture, and by many years' experience in business in this line he is thoroughly familiar with the wants of the public. He has established an enviable reputation for fair dealing and high class goods.

In Champaign county, Ohio, Mr. Hallowell was married September 21, 1865, to Miss Martha A. Barley, who was born, reared and educated there. They have one daughter, Mrs. George W. St. Clair, of

Chicago. Since the organization of the Republican party Mr. Hallowell has been one of its stanch supporters, casting his first presidential vote for John C. Fremont in 1856. He has served as a member of the board of aldermen of Le Roy and township collector and filled some other local positions of honor and trust. Socially, he is a Master Mason, a member of the Grand Army Post of Le Roy and the Odd Fellows Lodge of the same place. He has passed through all the chairs of the last named order and is now past grand of his lodge. For almost half a century he has been a resident of McLean county and has watched with interest the wonderful transformation that has taken place here during that time. He has been actively identified with its growth and prosperity, and is therefore justly numbered among the most valued and useful citizens of his community. He has always been deeply interested in public affairs and the good of the community where he has so long resided, and certainly deserves honorable mention in the history of his adopted county.

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JAMES T. CRUMBAUGH. The name of Crumbaugh has been so intimately associated with the development and progress of McLean county through almost three-quarters of a century that a representative of the family hardly needs an introduction to the readers of this volume. J. T. Crumbaugh, or as he is more commonly known, Thomas Crumbaugh, is a business man and capitalist of high standing in McLean county, and his strict conformity to the ethics of commercial life have won him uniform confidence, while



his enterprise and industry have gained him material reward.

One of McLean county's native sons, he was born in Empire township, January 24, 1832, and is a twin brother of D. T. Crumbaugh. His boyhood days were spent on the old homestead farm, and in the public schools of the neighborhood he acquired a fair English education that fitted him for the practical duties of life. On attaining his majority he formed a partnership with his twin brother and purchased a tract of prairie land of one hundred and sixty acres, then entirely unimproved. Soon the furrows showed the track of the plow and the planting was followed by good harvests. The place was also divided into fields of convenient size by well-kept fences, and as their financial resources were increased as the result of their labor they added to their property from time to time until their landed possessions aggregated nearly fourteen hundred acres. The partnership was continued for about ten years, when the property was divided.

The subject of this sketch then located on his share of the land and continued his farming operations. He later purchased more land and is now the owner of one thousand acres which is contained in three farms, all well improved. This is a valuable property and yields to the owner a good income. In 1886 Mr. Crumbaugh rented his farms and removed to Le Roy, where he purchased a lot, erecting thereon one of the most pleasing and tasteful residences in the town. In connection with his brother, L. A. Crumbaugh and James Bonnette, he established the Citizens Bank, a private banking institution, which the brothers still conduct, Mr. Bonnette having sold his interest to them. They carry on a general

banking business and their trustworthiness, safe and conservative methods, and unflinching enterprise have given the institution rank among the best financial concerns of McLean county. The brothers are known as men of decided character and sound judgment, are practical financiers and have the confidence of all.

In Empire township, September 13, 1862, J. T. Crumbaugh was united in marriage to Elizabeth J. Wiley, a sister of his brother Leonard's wife. She was born, reared and educated in this county, and is a daughter of James Wiley, a native of Ireland, who left that land for Jamaica and later came to the United States. On reaching this republic, he became a resident of Vermillion county, Illinois, where he married Permelia Waters, a native of Virginia, and to them were born six children, namely: Mrs. L. A. Crumbaugh; Mrs. John Bishop, of Le Roy; James S., a substantial farmer of Empire township; and Mrs. James T. Crumbaugh; Frank, died in 1898, and Constantine, deceased.

Our subject and his wife hold membership in the Universalist church of Le Roy and socially he is connected with the Odd Fellows society and the Knights of Pythias fraternity. He cast his first ballot for James Buchanan in 1856, and at each election since that time has supported the men and measures of the Democracy, believing most firmly that the party principles contain the best elements of good government. He is true to all the duties of citizenship and obligations of business and social life, and while his labors have brought to him a handsome competence he also belongs to that class of representative American citizens who while advancing their individual success promote the general prosperity.



ALBERT OGDEN, residing on section 9, Money Creek township, is the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and sixty acres, forty acres of which is on section 4. He is a native of McLean county, and was born January 9, 1838, on the farm where he now resides, and within seventy-five yards of his present residence, the family residing in a double log cabin which was erected by his father. He is a son of Samuel and Nancy (Vandolah) Ogden, the former a native of Madison county, Ohio, born August 24, 1809, and the latter in Fayette county, Ohio, born in May, 1810. They removed to McLean county in 1833, locating on the farm where our subject now resides, entering at the time eighty acres of land, the deed to which was signed by Andrew Jackson as president and Aaron Burr as secretary of state. The deed has never been transferred but once, from father to son, our subject.

Samuel Ogden was a most successful farmer, owning at the time of his death about nine hundred acres of land. He carried on mixed farming, giving, however, special attention to stock-raising. His death occurred in 1892, at the age of eighty-three years, his wife preceding him some years, dying July 8, 1884. She was a consistent member of the Christian church. They were the parents of ten children, as follows: Obediah, who is engaged in farming in Money Creek township; Croghan, who died at the age of seven years; Sarah, who married James Coon, but is now deceased; Mary A., who died when fourteen years old; Albert, the subject of this sketch; John W., who died when two years old; Angela, wife of James Pirtle, of Carthage, Missouri; Alexander, of Montana; George W., of Money Creek township; and Fran-

ces M., who died at the age of fourteen years.

The Ogden family are of English descent, the great-grandfather of our subject coming to this country from England prior to the Revolutionary war, locating near Albany, New York. In his family were seven sons, of whom Albert, the grandfather, was the youngest. He was also the smallest of the number, the family being noted for the size of each member, none of them weighing less than two hundred pounds. The entire family, except Albert, remained loyal to the crown. While too young to participate in the struggle, his sympathies with the struggling colonists led to an estrangement with the rest of the family. He was born near Albany, New York, and after reaching man's estate married Martha Riddle, a native of Pennsylvania. Leaving his native state, he first located in Kentucky, but shortly afterwards moved to Madison county, Ohio, and in 1831 came to McLean county, Illinois, and after living here a few years moved to Livingston county, Illinois, settling near Pontiac. Later he returned to McLean county, and locating in Money Creek township, there spent the remainder of his life, dying August 15, 1845. His wife survived him and passed away in 1850. They were the parents of five sons and three daughters, all of whom came to McLean county, with the exception of the eldest son, Abner, who lived and died in Ohio. The other members of the family were Benjamin, the first to settle in this county, Jonathan, John and Samuel; Polly, who married James Dawson in Ohio, and came with him to McLean county; Deborah, who married Hiram Tipton; and Susan, who married William Orendorf, of Bloomington, Illinois.

The subject of this sketch has spent his entire life in Money Creek township, and in the pioneer schools of the township he obtained his education, usually having the privilege of attending during the winter months. He remained at home, assisting his father in cultivating the home farm until after he had attained his majority. On the 8th of March, 1860, he was united in marriage with Miss Sarah C. Pirtle, who was born in Owen county, Indiana, July 21, 1843, and daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (McKnott) Pirtle, who were numbered among the early settlers of McLean county. By this union thirteen children were born, of whom ten are now living: Ora, wife of Enos Trimer, of Normal, Illinois; Ella, wife of Mansford Trimer, a farmer of Money Creek township; Elmon, who assists in carrying on the home farm; Stella, wife of Charles Yoder, a farmer now living in Bloomington; Dorothy, who still remains with her father; Pearl, wife of Charles Helaler of Towanda township; Nora, wife of John W. White, of Webster City, Iowa; Carl, still at home; Ernest and Tressie, also at home. The deceased are Mary, Vernie and Herschel, who died in early childhood. The good wife and mother passed to her reward February 14, 1893.

Immediately after his marriage, Mr. Ogden took up his residence on the old homestead where he was born and where he now resides, his father having three years previously moved to another place north of the creek. Here he commenced his married and business life, and with the exception of three years spent with his father on the home farm, it has been his home all his life. He has followed general farming, and has handled a great deal of stock, feeding several car loads of cattle each year. All

the old buildings on the place have been replaced by him, and the farm presents a neat and attractive appearance.

In politics Mr. Ogden is a Democrat, being a life-long supporter and advocate of the principles of that party. He has ever taken an interest in educational matters, and for twenty-nine years has served as school director. He has also served in other official capacities, and for twelve years was highway commissioner in his township. Fraternally he is a member of Lexington Lodge, No. 482, A. F. & A. M., having been a member of that order for thirty-five years. He is one of the substantial and reliable citizens of the township, and is well known and universally respected. For more than three score years he has lived in the county, his younger days being spent in pioneer times. He has a vivid recollection of the early days and loves to recall the early times, although he is a progressive man and lives in the present and not in the past.

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**A**LBERT H. NAFZIGER, a young and enterprising farmer, now owns and operates a farm of two hundred and forty acres of fine land on section 12, Danvers township. He is a native of Danvers township, born May 19, 1867, and is the son of Henry and Helena (Nafziger) Nafziger, both of whom were natives of Germany, the former born in Wurtemberg, October 19, 1832, and the latter of Hessen Darmstadt, October 21, 1832. The paternal grandfather, Jacob Nafziger, was also a native of Wurtemberg, Germany, and was by occupation a farmer. In 1847 he came to the United States, and coming direct to McLean county, he settled in Danvers township, where he purchased

land and followed farming and stock-raising for some twenty-five years, and then removed to the village of Danvers, where he lived a retired life until called from this world in 1881, at the age of eighty-one years. His wife survived him some years, dying in 1896.

Henry Nafziger received his education in the parochial schools of Germany, and was fifteen years old when he accompanied his parents to the United States. He remained at home with his father until he was nineteen years old, when he went to Ohio, and there remained about two years. In 1854, he was united in marriage with Miss Helena Nafziger, a native of Germany, and daughter of Christian Nafziger, also a native of the same country, who came to McLean county about 1853, locating in Danvers township, where he purchased two hundred and forty acres of land, and engaged in farming, and there resided during the remainder of his life. He died in 1893, when about ninety-two years old. His wife died in the spring of 1898, when ninety-four years old.

Henry and Helena Nafziger became the parents of nine children. Frederika died at the age of eighteen years. Robert married Mary Slaubaugh, and they have six children. Their home is in Tazewell county, Illinois, where he is engaged in farming. Emma is the wife of August Habecker, and with their four children they make their home in the village of Danvers, where he is in the meat market business. Henry died when four years old. John resides in Dry Grove township, where he is engaged in farming. He married Bertha Leibfritz, and they have four children. Fred resides in Danvers township, and is engaged in farming. He married Lena Schantz, and they

have three children. Albert H. is the subject of this sketch. Jacob lives in Danvers township, and is engaged in farming. He married Tillie Otto, and they have three children. Annie died at the age of one year.

After his marriage, Henry Nafziger located in Danvers township and rented land for a short time, and then purchased one hundred and sixty acres from his father and began its cultivation. He was quite successful in his farming operations, and at the time of his retirement from active life, he had six hundred and forty acres of good land in Tazewell and McLean counties. He died June 3, 1897, but his wife is yet living, and makes her home in the village of Danvers. In politics he was a Democrat, and for some years served as road commissioner in his township, and was also a school director a number of years. He was a member of the Mennonite church, as is also his wife.

Albert Nafziger was reared on the home farm, and received his education in the district school, and when about twenty-one years old he went to Tazewell county, Illinois, and made his home with his brother Robert about one year. Previous to going there, however, he was employed on the street car line of the Fort Clark Railway Company, at Peoria, Illinois, for about three months. After leaving his brother, he returned home and lived with his parents two years, and then rented a farm of eighty acres of Peter Schantz for one year.

On the 7th of February, 1893, Mr. Nafziger was united in marriage with Miss Ophelia Kinzinger, who was born December 13, 1873, and a daughter of C. W. and Magdalena (Strubhar) Kinzinger, the former a native of Woodford county, Illinois, and



the latter of McLean county, in the same state. Her father is one of the enterprising farmers of Danvers township, and owns a farm of three hundred and twenty acres on section 11. He is well known in the western part of McLean county. To our subject and wife one child has been born, Mabel, born November 23, 1893.

After his marriage, Mr. Nafziger moved to the farm of his father-in-law, which he rented for five years. On the 24th of December, 1897, he purchased of the Thomas Wilson estate, two hundred and forty acres of land lying on section 12, Danvers township, where he has since resided and given his attention to general farming. His place is kept in good repair and the land is well cultivated showing that he thoroughly understands his business.

In politics Mr. Nafziger is a Democrat, and he is now serving his third year as road commissioner. He is a member of the Mennonite church, as is also his wife.

**M**RS. CATHERINE SCHNEIDER, one of the oldest and best-known German-American residents of Bloomington, is a lady of large business capacity and marked intelligence, who has displayed remarkable tact and energy in the conduct of her affairs since her husband's death.

Mrs. Schneider, whose maiden name was Catherine Off, was born in 1834, in Romelshousen, Wurtemberg, Germany, where she was reared and educated, and on coming to the United States in 1851 she located in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where she made her home until she gave her hand in marriage, May 17, 1857, to John Frederick Schneider. He was born near Stutgardt, in Wurtemberg, Germany, and there

grew to manhood, his education being obtained in the public schools of his native land. At the age of eighteen he emigrated to America and also located in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where he learned the stonemason's trade, at which he worked in that city for five years. In 1862, in company with his wife and oldest children, he removed to Bloomington, Illinois, and for several years was recognized as one of the finest mechanics in his line in the city, being called upon to perform some of the best and most difficult work here. He worked on the standpipe, for which he received seven dollars per day; built the bake ovens for Gerkens, and the high chimney of Cox Mills. He also did the highest as well as some of the finest work on the jail, which attracted the entire attention of the town. He continued to successfully follow his trade up to the hour of his death, being killed July 15, 1881, at 10 A. M., by falling from the Homuth building on East Front street. He was an honored member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and had the respect and esteem of all who knew him.

Besides his widow, Mr. Schneider left six children, namely: Charles, now a resident of St. Paul, Minnesota; Ella, wife of William Becker, of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Lucy, wife of J. B. Enlow, of Bloomington; Katie and Mary, both at home with their mother; and Emma, wife of Gus Eckstine. At present there are also eleven grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Schneider had built a home at No. 1625 West Market street, and being left with six children and nothing for their support at her husband's death, Mrs. Schneider opened a small grocery store in the front part of her house. She soon built up a good business among the farmers



of the locality, and finding her trade constantly increasing, she erected a good store building at the corner of West Market street and the state road. Her affairs have always been conducted in a systematic and business-like way, and due success has not been denied her, as she is now the owner of two and a half acres of land in the city besides her store property, and has a ninety-nine year lease to an acre and a half from the Big Four railroad. She also owns a feed mill, but this she does not operate, and is engaged in the milk business, only keeping at present four cows, but usually six or eight. She has invested some in real estate and now own three lots in the Fair Grounds addition. She has displayed remarkable business and executive ability in the management of her interests and her straightforward, womanly course has won the commendation of the entire community. She has not only provided for her children, but has given them good high school educations and has reared them in such a way that they are now filling honorable and useful positions in life. Religiously, she is a faithful member of the Christian church.

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**WILLIAM H. HOWARD**, who is practically living retired in Le Roy, has for forty-three years been connected with the history of McLean county, and he has done much for its upbuilding and advancement. He has been a champion of every movement designed to promote the general welfare, a supporter of every enterprise for the public good, and has materially aided in the advancement of all social, industrial, educational and moral interests.

Mr. Howard is a native of Ohio, born in Franklin county, December 1, 1853, and is a son of Daniel O. and Sarah E. (Smiley) Howard. The father was born in 1821, in Monroe county, New York, where he was reared and as a young man went to Ohio and took up his residence in Franklin county. By trade he was a miller and followed that occupation in early life, but on coming to McLean county, Illinois, in 1856, he purchased a farm in Empire township and turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. He soon transformed his place into a highly cultivated and well improved farm, to which he added until he had one hundred and sixty acres in the homestead. Later in connection with his sons he bought more land and together they owned about five hundred acres of rich and arable land. He was a man of good business capacity and was honored with a number of local offices of trust, including that of supervisor of Empire township. He was twice married, the mother of our subject being his second wife. He died upon his farm in December, 1885, after a long and useful life of sixty-four years, in which he won the respect and confidence of all with whom he came in contact.

The subject of this sketch is the oldest in a family of five children, the others being Charles W., a resident of Le Roy; Homer D., who holds a position with the Illinois Central Railroad Company and lives in Champaign; Frank, who is now living retired in La Porte, Texas; and Mary, wife of Thomas H. Trevett, a prominent and successful business man of Champaign, Illinois.

On the old homestead in Empire township, William H. Howard spent his boyhood and youth in much the usual manner of farmer boys of his day. He was given good

educational advantages, and after attending the common schools, was a student for two terms in the Wesleyan University at Bloomington. Subsequently he engaged in teaching school, and successfully followed that profession for four years. On the 13th of June, 1878, was celebrated his marriage with Miss Nannie E. Scott, a native of Iowa and a daughter of William E. Scott, now living retired in Le Roy. Her father was born and reared in New Jersey, and there married Miss Anna Patterson, a native of Ohio. For some time they made their home in Indiana, later spent a few years in Jasper county, Iowa, and from there came to McLean county, Illinois, locating on a farm near Le Roy, where his children were reared. He was one of the leading and successful farmers of that community, and is a man highly respected by all who know him.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard began housekeeping on a farm near Le Roy, where he owned eighty acres of land, to the improvement and cultivation of which he devoted his time and attention with marked success for many years. He erected thereon a substantial residence, good barn and outbuildings, set out fruit, ornamental trees and shrubbery, and converted it into one of the best and most desirable farms of this size in the locality. In connection with general farming he also engaged in stock raising and feeding, and made of his chosen calling a decided success. Renting his farm in 1890, he came to Le Roy, where he purchased a house and four acres of ground, and in 1897 enlarged and remodeled his residence, making it one of the most attractive homes of the town. It is furnished with elegant taste and is presided over with gracious dignity by Mrs. Howard. Since locating here our subject has purchased another farm of eighty

acres in Downs township, which is also a well-improved place.

Politically, Mr. Howard is independent, and being a strong temperance man, he supported the men and measures of the Prohibition party for some years, but in 1896 voted for William J. Bryan and free silver. He and his wife are active and influential members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Le Roy, in which he is serving as recording steward. They are widely known and highly respected, and it is safe to say that no couple in the community have more warm friends than Mr. and Mrs. William H. Howard.

WILLIAM YOUNG, one of the leading and most enterprising farmers of Dawson township, and one of the largest land owners in the township, was born in Darke county, Ohio, January 10, 1843, and is the son of Isaac and Barbara (Nogle) Young, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Darke county, Ohio. They were the parents of four children, two of whom, Rufus and Wesley, are now deceased. Besides our subject, the one living is Anderson, who is living near San Jose, California, where he is engaged in the fruit business.

With his family, Isaac Young came to McLean county in 1850, and located in Dawson township, where he purchased land and at once commenced its development. At that time there had been but little improvement made in the township, it being nearly all unimproved land. He was not permitted long to enjoy any of the fruits of his labor, but was called to rest in November, 1856, his remains being interred in the Dawson cemetery. His good wife long survived him, passing away in October, 1891.

She was laid to rest beside the body of her husband. A member of the Methodist Episcopal church, she lived a Christian life, with full dependence on her beloved Saviour.

The subject of this sketch was seven years old when he accompanied his parents to McLean county. On the old farm in Dawson township he passed his boyhood and youth, and his father dying when he was but thirteen years old, greater responsibilities rested on his young shoulders than would otherwise have been. He commenced work at an early age, and made a full hand even in his youth. In the public schools of the township he received a good common school education, of which he has made the best use of in after life. He later attended Wesleyan University, at Bloomington, and was there when the civil war commenced.

On the 27th of January, 1867, Mr. Young was united in marriage with Miss Adelaide Harrison, daughter of William and Nancy Jane (Dawson) Harrison. She was born December 19, 1845, in Dawson township, McLean county, and was one of a family of nine children.

Mrs. Young comes of an old pioneer family. Her grandfather, John Dawson, came to McLean county at a very early day, when many Indians were yet in the vicinity. He selected his land and commenced its improvement, and as other settlers came in he extended to them a hand of welcome, and assisted them in every way in his power in the selection of their land, in the erection of their log cabins and in the breaking of the prairie. He was a good man, one whom his neighbors delighted to honor. The mother of Mrs. Young, the daughter of the old pioneer, John Dawson, departed this life February 14, 1864, and

she, too, was laid to rest in the Dawson cemetery, on land donated by her father, for burial purposes. Her husband, William Harrison, long survived her, dying March 28, 1895, and his remains were interred in the same sacred spot, there to wait the resurrection day.

To Mr. and Mrs. Young seven children have been born, one of whom died in infancy. Charles, residing in Dawson township, was married January 16, 1895, to Miss Eva Bingham, daughter of Albert and Mary (Hayes) Bingham, and they have one living child, Elmer L. They lost two in infancy. Dora B. married September 23, 1890, James Watson, and they have one son, Forrest Young. Their home is in Old Town township. Etta A. resides at home. She is a skilled musician, a teacher on the violin and piano. Frank W. is assisting his father in carrying on the home farm. Lettie Lee and Grace complete the family.

As already stated, Mr. Young was in Wesleyan University at Bloomington when the war for the Union commenced. With some of his companions he offered his services, and was sent to Camp Butler, near Springfield, Illinois, to assist in guarding prisoners. Later, in June, 1862, he enlisted in Company H, Sixty-eighth Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and served until September 26, 1862, when he was honorably discharged and mustered out of the service. While at Alexandria, Virginia, during this term of enlistment he was taken sick with the measles and was reported dead. His mother came for the body of her boy, and instead of a corpse she found him regaining his health. He remarked to her: "Take this money, all I have (there were nine one dollar gold pieces), and go home." Once more Mr. Young enlisted in the serv-



ice of his country, this time in Company G, One Hundred and Forty-fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was mustered in June 9, 1864, with the rank of sergeant, and was mustered out September 23, 1864.

In politics Mr. Young is a Democrat. He has never been an aspirant for office, but he has been honored by his friends and neighbors with several local offices, among them being school director, a position which he has held for sixteen years. While he takes special interest in political affairs, he prefers to give his time to his business interests, and his well-kept fields, fine stock, and good dwelling and outbuildings attest the industry and thrift of the owner. With his good wife he has many friends in the county. She is a woman of refinement, one whose heart and sympathies go out to the deserving poor, and she is often found at the bedside of the sick, or in the home of sorrow offering consolation to the afflicted ones. Mr. Young is a man whose word is as good as his bond, and he never goes back on a friend, his party, country, pledge or promise. Fraternally, he is a member of Grand Army of the Republic.

**F**RED A. NAFZIGER, who resides on section 2, Danvers township, has a farm of one hundred and sixty acres of well improved land, which is under a high state of cultivation. He is a native of the township and was born December 9, 1864. His parents, Henry and Helena (Nafziger) Nafziger, were natives of Germany, of whom more is said in the sketch of Albert H. Nafziger, elsewhere in this work. He continued in the public schools of Danvers township until he was fifteen years of age, when he took up the battle of life in ear-

nest, assisting his father in the cultivation of the home farm and rendering filial obedience until he was twenty-two years old. He then went to Nebraska, and locating in Gage county, he there engaged in farming one year. At the expiration of that time he concluded that McLean county was a good enough place for him in which to live, and so returned, and for one year rented land of his father, on which he raised a good crop.

On the 6th of March, 1890, Mr. Nafziger married Miss Lena Schantz, a native of Stanford, McLean county, born August 31, 1864, and daughter of Peter and Elizabeth Schantz, both of whom are natives of Hessen Darmstadt, Germany. Peter Schantz was born August 17, 1822, and there grew to manhood. On the 30th of May, 1855, he married Elizabeth Haas, who was born September 6, 1833, and the daughter of John Haas, a brick mason by trade, who died in Germany. Immediately after their marriage they emigrated to the United States, coming direct to McLean county and locating in Allin township. On his arrival he was possessed of between five and six dollars, and was not in condition to make any heavy investments. He commenced work at farm labor by the month, and continued to be thus employed for two years. He then rented land on half shares for about nine years, and in 1865, having by industry and economy succeeded in saving some money, he purchased eighty acres and commenced its improvement. Giving himself to general farming, he met with success, and has now two hundred and forty acres of good farming land. In November, 1892, he moved into Danvers, built a fine residence, and has since lived a retired life. In his family were seven children, three of



whom are deceased. Gustave married Lizzie Emig, and they have one child. They reside in Allin township. Lena is the wife of our subject, and they have three children. Their home is in Danvers township. Emma and Lizzie are at home. In politics Mr. Schantz is a Democrat. He and his wife are members of the Mennonite church.

To our subject and his wife three children have been born: Nora, born December 27, 1890; Albert, January 19, 1892; and Walter, March 10, 1896. The first two are now students in the home school.

After his marriage our subject continued to rent land for about three years. In the fall of 1894 his father deeded each of his children eighty acres of land, and on the eighty acres given to him, Mr. Nafziger located, and commenced its improvement. In February, 1898, he purchased eighty acres adjoining from his brother Albert, and now has one hundred and sixty acres. He is giving his attention to general farming and stock raising, and is meeting with good success. In politics he is a Democrat, and for six years has been one of the school directors of his district. He and his wife are members of the Mennonite church.

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**G**EORGE BISHOP, one of the pioneers of McLean county, now residing on section 1, Randolph township, has been a resident of the county since 1830, a period of sixty-nine years, coming as a lad of seven years in company with his parents. He was born in Perry county, Ohio, April 22, 1823, and is the son of Jacob and Mary (Weedman) Bishop, the former a native of Pennsylvania, and the latter of Perry county, Ohio, where their marriage was celebrated.

They were the parents of six sons and seven daughters, all of whom are yet living but one son.

Believing the prairies of Illinois would be better than the heavily timbered land of Ohio, Jacob Bishop determined to try his fortunes in the new state, and in 1830 drove with teams from his Ohio home to McLean county, Illinois, and on his arrival here made his first stop at Blooming Grove. He soon afterwards entered one hundred and twenty acres of land in Randolph township, on which he located and opened up and developed a good farm. Later he purchased one hundred and seventy-six acres in Downs township, which he also improved. He was fairly successful in his business affairs, and lived to see his adopted county take a rapid stride to the front. He died at the age of ninety years, his wife not surviving so long, dying some ten years previous.

George Bishop, who was the second born of the family and grew to manhood on his father's farm, remained at home until he attained his majority, assisting in the farm work. His education was limited to the common schools of pioneer times, but he made the best use possible of his opportunities, and is to-day a well-informed man. He was married in 1844, to Miss Susan Jane Wright, a native of Tennessee, but who was reared in this county. Her father, Jabez Wright, came to this county at a very early day from Kentucky, and engaged in agricultural pursuits. He has long since passed to his reward.

After his marriage Mr. Bishop purchased forty acres of land in Randolph township, moved to it a log cabin, and there he and his wife began their domestic life. The land purchased was unbroken,

not a furrow had been turned. Commencing work, he soon had the forty acre tract under cultivation, and as his means increased he added to its area, and later purchased a land warrant with which he entered one hundred and seventy-six acres in Downs township, which he also improved. He also bought his father's interest in Downs township. On his original purchase in due time he built a good residence and various outbuildings, set out fruit trees, and at one time had the best orchard in the township, which included two hundred apple trees. This was killed off by cold and sleet, but he has put other trees in their place. His farm is well tiled and is kept well improved in every respect. He commenced life for himself without a dollar, and worked as a farm hand for seven dollars per month for Jesse Funk. By hard work, earnest toil and perseverance he succeeded in life, and is now numbered among the substantial and reliable farmers of McLean county.

By his first wife Mr. Bishop had three children. Joseph W. grew to manhood, and enlisted in the civil war, dying at Springfield, Illinois, while yet in service. John T. also grew to manhood, but died in December, 1897. Mary Jane is the wife of K. A. Ellsworth, of Decatur, Illinois. The mother of these children died in 1855, and for his second wife Mr. Bishop married Miss America Neal, in 1856. She is a native of McLean county, and daughter of Ashley Neal, one of the early settlers of McLean county, but who went to California in 1849 and died there. By this second marriage there are five children: David A., now of Decatur, Illinois; H. Grant, of Bloomington, where he has a business position; Martin, who is engaged in railroading, and

makes his home in Amboy, Illinois; Emma Belle and Adda, both at home.

In early manhood Mr. Bishop was politically a Whig, and cast his first ballot in 1844 for Henry Clay. When the Whig party ceased to exist, he identified himself with the newly-organized Republican party, with which he has since acted. He would never accept official position, with the exception of that he served on the school board. The first district school in the neighborhood was held in his house, and he and his brother donated the land for the first school house. Religiously, he and his wife are Methodists, holding membership with the Methodist Episcopal church at Heyworth. They are well known and highly esteemed, and both know what pioneer life means. They assisted in developing this country, and have lived to see McLean county occupy the proud position as one of the best and wealthiest counties in the state.

EDWARD RYBURN has made his home in McLean county since the 3rd of April, 1853, and has become one of its most substantial and prosperous farmers and stock-raisers, owning and operating a valuable farm of seven hundred acres on sections 20, 21, 28 and 29, Randolph township. He enjoys the well-earned distinction of being what the public calls a "self-made man," and an analysis of his character reveals the fact that enterprise, well-directed effort and honorable dealing has been the essential features in his prosperity.

A native of Ohio, Mr. Ryburn was born in Harrison county, November 39, 1839, and is a son of James Ryburn, whose birth



EDWARD RYBURN.

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occurred in Pennsylvania, June 8, 1793. The paternal grandfather, James Ryburn, Sr., was a native of Virginia. He served as a soldier of the Revolutionary war under the command of Generals Wayne and Washington, and participated in the battles of Monmouth and Germantown, and in later years received a pension from the government in recognition of his services. His father was born in Scotland and was one of the original settlers of the Old Dominion. After the Revolution, James Ryburn, Sr., removed to Pennsylvania and became one of the pioneers of York county, but some time later took up his residence in Washington county, that state, where in the midst of the unbroken forests he made one of the first clearings and developed a farm.

James Ryburn, Jr., was reared amid pioneer scenes in Pennsylvania, and on reaching man's estate he was there married to Miss Mary Ann Bigley, a native of that state, whose parents were from the north of Ireland. In 1831 they went to Ohio and were among the first to settle in Harrison county, where they continued to make their home until coming to McLean county, Illinois, in 1853. In Randolph township the father purchased the old Governor Moore farm of about one hundred and seventy acres, upon which he and his family located, but he was not long permitted to enjoy his new home, as death claimed him November 2, 1857. His wife survived him many years, dying in 1881. To this worthy couple were born eight children, who reached years of maturity, and in order of birth they were as follows: James, on first coming to Illinois settled in DeWitt county, but later became a resident of Bloomington, where his death occurred;

Joseph B. makes his home in Bloomington; Elizabeth died unmarried; Edward, our subject, is the next in order of birth; Mrs. Maggie R. Flagg is living in Des Moines, Iowa; David G. and Samuel are both farmers of Randolph township; and John died at the age of seventeen years.

Edward Ryburn was a lad of thirteen years when he came with his parents to this county, and upon the home farm in Randolph township he grew to manhood, assisting his brothers in its operation after the father's death. His primary education was obtained in the country schools, and was supplemented by a course in the schools of Bloomington. For a number of years the sons carried on the home farm in connection with places of their own, and after reaching man's estate our subject and his brother Joseph B. were in partnership in their farming operations for three years. They purchased a small herd of short-horn cattle and, in addition to general farming, gave considerable attention to breeding and dealing in pure-blooded stock. At the end of three years, however, our subject removed to De Witt county, where he continued to engage in the short-horn cattle business for one year, and then returned to McLean county, locating upon a part of his present farm in February, 1867. Here he first purchased one hundred and sixty acres of fairly improved land, but has extended the boundaries of his farm from time to time until he now has seven hundred acres, which he has tilled and placed under a high state of cultivation. His farm buildings are models of convenience, and everything about the place betokens thrift and industry. Besides his valuable property, Mr. Ryburn owns a half-section of land near Chillicothe, in Caldwell county, Missouri, and is very ex-

tensively engaged in the raising of cattle and sheep. He was one of the prime movers in the organization of the Heyworth Bank, and from the beginning has served as a stockholder and the president of that substantial institution. He is a business man of far more than ordinary ability, and in all his undertakings has met with most gratifying success.

On the farm where he now resides, Mr. Ryburn was married December 19, 1865, to Miss Amanda R. Passwaters, who was born upon that place and educated in the district schools of the neighborhood. Her father, Richard Passwaters, settled here as early as 1829. Five children have been born to our subject and his wife, namely: Mrs. Anna R. Hayes; Mrs. Dr. F. L. Wakefield, of Heyworth; William E., who is married and is engaged in farming in Caldwell county, Missouri; John R., who is married and lives on the old homestead; and James D., also on the home farm with his father.

Since attaining his majority Mr. Ryburn has been a stanch supporter of the men and measures of the Republican party, and cast his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1864. For three terms he was a prominent and influential member of the county board of supervisors, during which time he served on several important committees, and for a quarter of a century he has labored effectively for the educational interests of his community as a member of the school board. As a citizen, he has at all times the good of the community at heart, and his abilities are exerted to make the county of his adoption rank among the brightest and best of all composing this great commonwealth. His estimable wife holds membership in the Presbyterian church of Heyworth.

HENRY C. MYERS, who resides on section 36, Downs township, has only been a resident of McLean county since 1879, but in that time he has become thoroughly assimilated, as much so as if he was a native born. He is a native of Augusta county, Virginia, born July 5, 1852, and is the son of Samuel C. and Mary Ann Myers, his father being born on the same farm where his birth occurred. The paternal grandfather, Michael Myers, owned the farm where his son was born, and it continued in the family until about 1879. Samuel Myers served in the civil war as a member of the Fifty-second Virginia Infantry, and died while in the service during the first year of the war.

The subject of this sketch was but nine years of age when his father died, and on reaching his majority he succeeded to the old farm. In the common-schools of his native state he received his education, and upon the old homestead his boyhood and youth were spent. As soon as his years would permit he took charge of the farm, which he cultivated until he decided to come to Illinois. He was married in Augusta county, Virginia, December 31, 1875, to Miss Ellen Lamb, also a native of the same county and state, and daughter of A. A. Lamb, likewise of Augusta county, who came to McLean county in 1877 and located on a farm near Bloomington. By this union there are five children: Charles Henry, Clarence G., Bessie C., Emma and Effie.

Selling the old home place in Virginia, in 1879, Mr. Myers came with his family to McLean county, and bought eighty acres of improved land, which comprises a part of his present farm. Locating thereon, he commenced his farm life in Illinois, and

that he has been successful is easily attested. The original eighty served his purpose but a short time, and as his means increased, or the opportunity was given him, he has added to its area until he now owns two hundred and eighty acres, nearly all of which has been made in the past twenty years. His farm is well tiled, the improvements being made are of a high order, and the surroundings show that all is controlled by a master mind. With general farming he is engaged in stock-raising, which is no inconsiderable part of his business.

The first presidential ballot cast by Mr. Myers was in 1876, when he voted for Samuel J. Tilden. He has since voted for the nominees of the Democratic party and advocated its principles, believing them for the best interests of the whole people. Fraternally, he is a member of the Knights of Pythias, holding membership with the lodge in Leroy, Illinois. While his residence here has been short in comparison with many others, he has yet made many friends in the county, and all regard him as a man of honor and worthy of the confidence and esteem of the community.

**CHALTON D. WATERS.** Wherever there is pioneer work to be done, men of energy and ability are required, and success or failure depends upon the degree of those qualities that are possessed. In wresting the land of McLean county from its native wilderness; in fitting it for the habitation of men; in developing the natural resources of the community in which they live, few if any have contributed more largely than Mr. Waters, and it is mete and proper that for the arduous and important labor he has performed he should receive

due reward. He developed a fine farm in Empire township and for years was successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits, but now lives retired in the village of Le Roy.

Mr. Waters was born in Bourbon county, Kentucky, June 17, 1826, but his home has been in this county since the fall of 1830. His father, Silas Waters, was a native of Virginia and a son of Silas Waters, Sr., who was also born in the Old Dominion and with his wife and nine children removed from that state to Kentucky at a very early day. The journey was a long and tedious one, as they had but a one-horse cart and the whole family had to walk most of the way. They were among the first settlers of Bourbon county, and there the children all grew to man and womanhood. There Silas Waters, Jr., married Miss Shannah Conway, a native of Kentucky, and after following farming for some years in that state they came to Illinois in the fall of 1830 and took up their residence in Empire township, McLean county, where the father bought a claim and opened up a farm. He operated it for some years and then removed to DeWitt, where he engaged in merchandising for two years, later following the same pursuit in Le Roy for three years. After that he lived retired in the latter village until called from this life October 6, 1882, at the ripe old age of seventy-eight years. He was twice married, his first wife, who was the mother of our subject, having died in 1866. He was a practical business man and an earnest, consistent gentleman, a great worker in the Methodist Episcopal church. He was also very prominent and served as one of the associate county judges for several years.

Reared on the home farm in Empire township, Chalton D. Waters attended the



subscription schools to a limited extent, but the greater part of his education has been obtained by reading and observation since reaching manhood. He worked for his father until twenty-five years of age and then succeeded to the homestead. In De Witt county he was married, in 1852, to Miss Catherine Moore, who was born and reared in Virginia, and died upon his farm in Empire township, August 13, 1881. Six children were born to this union namely: Silas, a resident of Le Roy; Minnie, wife of Jasper Morris, of Kingman county, Kansas; John, a dentist of Fisher, Illinois; William, a resident of Le Roy; Anna, wife of James Lisenbey, of Clinton, Illinois; and Mattie, wife of Ed Smither, of Urbana, an engineer on the Big Four railroad. Mr. Waters was again married in Le Roy, November 25, 1884, his second union being with Miss Maria Barnum, a native of Erie county, New York, and a daughter of Samuel Barnum, a prominent farmer of Empire township, now living retired. On first coming here from New York, Mr. Barnum located in Bloomington, but he afterward returned to the Empire state, where he spent a few years, and then again came to this county, where he has since made his home. By his last marriage our subject has one son, Samuel Fayette, who is now attending school in Le Roy.

For many years Mr. Waters continued the cultivation of his farm, comprising two hundred and thirty acres, and made many improvements upon the place, including the erection of a good residence, barn and other outbuildings. He divided the land into fields of convenient size by good fences, set out an orchard, and converted it into one of the most valuable places of its size in the locality. Mr. Waters suc-

cessfully engaged in general farming and stock raising until 1888, when he rented the farm and moved to Le Roy, where he purchased lots and erected three houses, two of which he has since sold, the other being his present home.

Originally, Mr. Waters was an old-line Whig in politics and cast his first presidential ballot for Zachary Taylor, but since the organization of the Republican party he has been one of its staunch supporters. He holds membership in the Methodist Episcopal church of Le Roy, has served as class leader and steward in the same, and always takes an active part in church work. For almost seventy years he has made his home in McLean county and has witnessed the wonderful changes that have taken place here in that township; has seen towns and cities spring up, the railroads and telegraph introduced, and the wild land converted into fine farms which rank among the best in the state. In this work he has ever bore his part, and his name should be found among the foremost of its honored pioneers, as well as its representative and leading citizens.

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CHRISTIAN F. NAFZIGER, a wide-awake and progressive farmer of Allin township, McLean county, was born on the 14th of October, 1851, in Butler county, Ohio. His father, Christian W. Nafziger, an honored and highly esteemed citizen of Stanford, was born in Hesse Darmstadt, Germany, May 28, 1819, of German parentage. The grandfather died in that country in March, 1819, two months before the birth of his son Christian W., and some time afterward his wife, with her children, emigrated to America and took up their residence in Butler county, Ohio. In the



spring of 1854, she came to McLean county, Illinois, where she died in the fall of the same year. In Ohio, the father of our subject grew to manhood, and was there employed as a farm hand for eight years. In the meantime, on the 15th of March, 1849, he married Miss Elizabeth Ehresmann, who was born in Hesse Cassel, Germany, in November, 1823, and came to America in July, 1842, also locating in Butler county, Ohio, where she joined her father and brothers who had preceded her to this country. She has two brothers and three sisters, all now deceased, and she passed away February 21, 1884.

In 1854, Christian W. Nafziger, accompanied by his wife and family came to Illinois, and after renting a farm in McLean county for one year, he purchased eighty acres in Allin township, to which he has since added another eighty-acre tract. Subsequently he purchased the farm of one hundred and twenty acres on which our subject now resides. In 1878, he moved to Stanford, where he embarked in lumber business, and followed the same for five years. He is now living retired with one of his daughters at that place. In his family were six children, as follows: John H., who now owns and conducts a livery stable in Minier, Illinois; Christian F., our subject; Eliza M., wife of Henry Linker, a farmer of Tazewell county, Illinois; Gustaff A., a farmer of Kansas; Lena E., wife of George M. Wright, a grocer of Stanford; and William J., a farmer of Tazewell county.

The subject of this sketch was but an infant when brought by his parents to this county. The greater part of his education was obtained in the district schools of Allin township, but he also studied German in Bloomington. When not in the school

room he assisted his father in the labors of the farm until twenty-three years of age, when he started out in life for himself as an agriculturist, at first operating a rented farm and boarding at home. In 1877 he located upon his present farm of one hundred and twenty acres which he purchased of his father in 1888, and has converted the place into one of the richest and most productive farms in this section of the county. He has planted some lovely shade trees as well as a fine orchard of pears, peaches and apples—one of the best in Allin township—and also has a large walnut grove of his own planting. His farm is now principally devoted to the raising of grain, though he formerly gave considerable attention to the raising and shipping of stock. In his life work he has met with well-merited success, and besides his farming interests, he is now a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator at Stanford, which is operated by a Mr. Skinner, and is proving a paying investment.

After living alone upon his farm for a few years, Mr. Nafziger was married July 14, 1886, to Miss Ida B. Mulnix, a native of McDonough county, Illinois, who removed with her parents from there to Indiana, where the father died but where the mother is still living. At the time of her marriage, Mrs. Nafziger was staying with a sister in McLean county. She died March 21, 1892, and was preceded by their youngest child a few months. Two children are still living, namely: Albert W., born July 14, 1887; and Christian P., born June 14, 1889. Both are now attending school in the home district. After the death of his wife, Mr. Nafziger kept his children at home and hired a housekeeper until he was again married, December 22, 1898, his second union being with Mrs. Nellie (Thompson) Calvert, who

by her first marriage had one child, Frances M., born October 29, 1887. There are no children by the second union. Mrs. Nafziger was born in Brown county, Ohio, and at the time of her marriage to our subject was living in Stanford, this county. She is a consistent member of the Christian church, to which Mr. Nafziger contributes liberally, although not a member. His political support is always given the men and measures of the Democratic party, and he has most creditably and acceptably filled the office of constable for eleven years, and in the spring of 1898 was elected school trustee, in which position he is now serving. Socially he is a member of the Camp of Modern Woodmen at Stanford and is a Master Mason of high standing, having held several offices in the local lodge. He is widely known and highly respected, and those who know him best are numbered among his warm friends.

**WILLIAM H. MACY**, justice of the peace and druggist, of Towanda, Illinois, was born in New Bedford, Massachusetts, January 25, 1834, and is the son of William M. and Mariam P. (Houghton) Macy, the former a native of Nantucket, Massachusetts, and the latter of Lynn, in the same state. They were married in Lynn, but immediately removed to New Bedford, where our subject was born. Later they removed to Trenton, New Jersey, and still later to New York City, where the father died in July, 1838. Soon after the death of her husband Mrs. Macy moved to Nantucket, Massachusetts, where she died January 25, 1839, on the fifth birthday of her son, of whom we write. She was the mother of another child, which died in infancy.

William M. Macy was interested with his brother-in-law, Hezekiah Barnard, afterwards state treasurer of Massachusetts, in the whaling business, but in the war of 1812 their vessels were captured by the English, which caused their financial ruin. The parents of William M. Macy were William and Anna Macy, both natives of Nantucket, Massachusetts. The father of William, who was also named William, was likewise a native of Massachusetts, and the family were all members of the Society of Friends. William M. Macy was twice married, his first wife being a Miss Worth, and they were the parents of four daughters, one of whom yet survives, Elizabeth H., now a wealthy lady of Brooklyn, New York, residing at No. 178 Carleton avenue. She was for some years a teacher in a private school in the city of New York, and by judicious investment of her earnings in city property amassed considerable wealth.

The subject of this sketch was left fatherless when four years old and motherless when but five years old. He was then taken by an uncle, Mr. Barnard, with whom he remained until he was sixteen years old. He first attended a Quaker select school, and then spent two years at the West Town boarding school, in Chester, Pennsylvania, near Philadelphia. He then returned home and spent one year in the private school of John Boogle, after which he was apprenticed to learn the cabinet maker's trade at Fall River, Massachusetts, with Borden & Almy, the former afterwards being the victim of the noted Borden murder case. He remained with that firm a little more than three years, or until he was twenty-one years old.

In the spring of 1856, Mr. Macy came to Illinois, locating first in Lodi, Iroquois

county, where he worked at carpenter work for two years. He then went to Tremont, Tazewell county, where he worked at the cabinet trade for one year. From Tremont he went to Fairbury, and at Fairbury and Pontiac he worked at either cabinet or carpentry work until his enlistment in the army during the civil war. Under the first call he offered his services, but the quota being filled, he was not accepted. On the 2d of August, 1861, he enlisted in Company K, Third Illinois Cavalry, under Colonel Carr, and Captain R. H. Carnahan. The regiment went into camp for five weeks at Camp Butler, near Springfield, Illinois, during which time they were engaged in drilling and preparing for duty. From Camp Butler they were sent to Benton Barracks, near St. Louis, where they received their equipments. The regiment was assigned to command of General John C. Fremont, and was ordered to Springfield, Missouri, where General Price was encamped. Upon its arrival it found that Price had evacuated the place. After remaining a few weeks at Springfield, the command was sent to Rolla, Missouri, where it went into camp and remained until the spring of 1862. While at Rolla Mr. Macy was detailed as post hospital steward, and there remained until about July, when he was sent to Pilot Knob, where he met Company M, of the Third Illinois Cavalry, with which company he remained under command of Colonel Boyd of the Twenty-fourth Missouri Infantry, until the fall of 1862, when Company M was ordered to Helena, Arkansas, where he again joined his own company. Almost as soon as he arrived at Helena, he was detailed as hospital steward of his regiment.

The regiment was ordered from Helena

to Vicksburg, where it was in the command of General Sherman. It was soon, however, sent to Arkansas Post, and after the capture of that place it returned to Vicksburg. After remaining there a few weeks it was ordered to Memphis, and our subject was stationed at different times in various places from Memphis to Corinth during the remainder of his term of service. He was present at the battle of Tupello, Mississippi, under the command of General A. J. Smith, and was present when the command was attacked by General Forrest at Memphis. In September, 1864, he was discharged from the service at Springfield, Illinois, his term of enlistment having expired.

While yet in the service Mr. Macy received a furlough, returned home, and on the 22d of September, 1863, was united in marriage with Miss Mary E. Walden, daughter of Theophilus and Nancy (Oppy) Walden, the marriage ceremony taking place in Fairbury, Illinois. On receiving his discharge he rejoined his wife near Attica, Indiana, where she was then staying at the home of her parents. After a short stay there he came to McLean county with his wife, and in May, 1865, purchased the residence, store and drug stock of A. L. Holcomb, and has since carried on the business.

Mrs. Macy was born in Montgomery county, Indiana, October 17, 1837, and is the youngest of four children, the others being Frances A., born October 14, 1829, who is now the wife of Campbell Schultz, a retired farmer of Attica, Indiana; Samuel M., born November 13, 1832, and who for some years was a contractor and builder in Chicago, and who died in January, 1894; and William D., born October 18, 1835, who was a mechanic and merchant of



Springfield, Ohio, and who was a soldier in the Twentieth Illinois Infantry during the civil war, and who saw much hard service. He died September 6, 1891.

Theophilus Walden died December 14, 1838, when Mrs. Macy was an infant. Her mother later married James H. Dazey, of Montgomery county, Indiana, who died in 1867 while on a visit to Mr. Macy. From Montgomery county he removed to Tippecanoe county, Indiana, where the remainder of his life was passed. By this second union there were five children: Christopher J., born September 24, 1840; Sarah C., born December 8, 1842, now the wife of William Spraggins, of Springfield, Ohio; James H., born December 6, 1844, living in Leipsic, Ohio; Narcissus S., born March 7, 1847, now the widow of James Bettice, of Springfield, Ohio; and Eliza E., born December 27, 1849, now the wife of Thomas Browning, of Lafayette, Indiana. The mother of these children died July 24, 1880, at the age of seventy-two years.

To Mr. and Mrs. Macy two children were born. Mary B., born September 3, 1864, married Dr. William C. Girtin, a native of Kentucky, who was extensively engaged in the practice of medicine in Towanda until his death, March 11, 1896. They had six children: Lulu G., Lila M., Harry, G. Lynn, Elizabeth E., and William C. Mrs. Girtin again married March 28, 1897, to Homer V. Meeker, and they now reside in Monroe county, Missouri. They have one son, Charles H. The second child of Mr. and Mrs. Macy was William D., who was born December 9, 1868, and who married Miss Arnetta Janes, of Monroe county, Missouri. He died January 6, 1899. He was a most exemplary young man, respected and loved by all who knew

him because of his many admirable qualities of head and heart.

In politics Mr. Macy has always been an uncompromising Republican, and has been actively identified with party affairs for many years, serving as chairman of the Republican central committee of his township, and doing all in his power to advance the interest of his party. The first official position held by him was that of school director, which position he held for three years. For nineteen years he has served as school trustee, and for twenty-one years he has served as justice of the peace. In this office he has given the best satisfaction, and has never had one of his decisions overruled by a higher court. He has also served as village trustee, and during Grant's first term he was postmaster of Towanda. Fraternally he has been a Master Mason for thirty-five years, being a member of Bloomington Lodge, No. 43, A. F. & A. M., and is one of the best posted men in the order. Since 1860 he has been a member of of the Baptist church, and has taken an active interest in the church work, and for some years was superintendent of the Sunday-school. Mrs. Macy gives personal attention to the hotel known as the Macy Hotel, which the traveling public has learned to appreciate for its homelike comforts.

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JOSHUA C. DANIEL, who resides on section 25, Randolph township, has a fine farm of one hundred and twenty-four acres, which he keeps under an excellent state of cultivation. He is a native of McLean county, and was born in Dry Grove township, October 31, 1837. His father, David Daniel, was born in Virginia, May



26, 1815, and spent his boyhood and youth in Virginia and Ohio, coming to McLean county in early manhood. He was married in Bloomington, June 30, 1836, to Miss Martha Miller, a native of Indiana, born January 14, 1817. After marriage they settled in Funk's Grove township, where he engaged in farming, and where his death occurred in 1848. His widow later married W. H. Miller, of Randolph township, but is now for the second time a widow, and resides in the township, a hale and hearty woman of eighty-two years.

The subject of this sketch was reared on a farm, but his father dying when he was but eleven years old, he was at a very tender age compelled to begin for himself the battle of life. His educational advantages were limited to the public school. On the 4th of September, 1861, he was united in marriage with Miss Nancy E. Rutledge, a sister of Leander Rutledge, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work, and daughter of Robert H. Rutledge, who was born and reared in Kentucky. Mrs. Daniel was born in McLean county and she was married in Bloomington.

After marriage, Mr. Daniel rented a farm in Downs township and there resided for several years. He then moved to Champaign county, where for three years he cultivated a rented farm. He then bought a farm of eighty-three acres in that county and began its improvement. Later he purchased thirty-one acres additional, giving him a farm of one hundred and fourteen acres. He continued to reside on that farm, which he greatly improved, until 1877, when he rented the place and returned to this county, that he and his wife might care for her aged father. One year later he sold his Champaign farm and purchased the farm

where he now resides, which was known as the old Mayberry farm. When it came into his possession he found it very much run down, and he at once set about its improvement, and in due time tilled the land, set out fruit and ornamental trees, and has erected a large and neat residence, having now a valuable and well-improved farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel have two sons and one daughter. Charles Sherman, the eldest son, married Ellen Myers, of Fayette county, Illinois, and they have two sons, Humphrey and Everett. Robert O. married Grace Passwaters, and they reside in Randolph township, where he is engaged in farming. Sarah Ann is the wife of Charles Yanney, and they have one daughter, Iliff E., and two sons, Stanley and Roy. They reside in Randolph, and he is engaged in farming. Mr. and Mrs. Daniel lost one son, Frank Sargent, who died at the age of eight years, and one child that died in infancy.

Politically Mr. Daniel is an ardent Republican, and cast his first presidential vote in 1860 for Abraham Lincoln. He has never swerved from his allegiance to the party, but has voted for every presidential nominee of the party from Lincoln to McKinley. He has served three years as road commissioner, and otherwise never held public office, caring nothing for the honors obtained in that direction. Mrs. Daniel is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Heyworth, and although Mr. Daniel is not member he attends with his wife and takes a part in the Sunday school. A life long resident of the county, he has witnessed its growth and development and has done his duty in bringing about the wonderful results which are manifest on every hand.

OLIVER S. HARDING, deceased, for many years a leading agriculturist and highly-respected citizen of McLean county, was born on the 12th of December, 1826, in Henry county, Indiana, a son of Saul and Catherine (McCall) Harding. The father was born and reared in Kentucky, his father, a native of England, having located there at an early day. When Saul Harding was thirteen years of age the family removed to Indiana and were pioneers of that state, where, in later years, he successfully engaged in farming and also bought and shipped horses quite extensively, being one of the prosperous men of his community. He settled in Wapello county, Iowa, when our subject was fourteen years old, at which time most of the state was still in its primitive condition, and their nearest market was Ottumwa. There the father took up a tract of new land and made his home for some years, but late in life, after all of his children had left home, he went to Kansas, where he lived with his grandchildren for five years, his death occurring in that state. His wife was a native of Ireland, but when a small child was brought to this country by her parents. Her father was killed in Kentucky by the Indians, and subsequently her mother married a Mr. Howard, by whom she had seven children.

Oliver S. Harding, our subject, was one of a family of fourteen children. During his boyhood he attended the public schools of Indiana as he had opportunity, but after the removal of the family to Iowa, his entire time was devoted to agricultural pursuits, assisting his father in the labors of the home farm until he attained his majority, when he entered eighty acres of land in Wapello county, and engaged in farming on his own account. On the 6th of April,

1850, he started overland for California, and arrived in Placerville on the 26th of the following July. He engaged in mining there until November, the same year, when he boarded a sailing vessel at San Francisco, and by way of the Isthmus of Panama, returned to Jefferson county, Iowa, where he owned and operated a farm of one hundred and thirty-five acres.

It was in that county that Mr. Harding was married, January 15, 1857, to Miss Leona Eskew, who was born in Waynesville, DeWitt county, Illinois, August 14, 1838, a daughter of Paren and Julia (Troxel) Eskew. Her father was born in Patrick county, Virginia, in 1815, and died October 12, 1898. He successfully engaged in farming in DeWitt county, Illinois, until the death of his wife, when he removed to a farm near Le Roy, McLean county, which place he continued to own until he too was called away, though he spent his last days in retirement from labor in the village. His wife, who was about eleven years his junior, was born in DeWitt county, her father being one of its earliest settlers, having removed there from Kentucky prior to the winter of the deep snow. Her paternal grandfather was a native of Germany and a pioneer of Kentucky.

In 1867 Mr. Harding came to McLean county and took up his residence in Empire township, where he purchased a farm of two hundred and ten acres and successfully engaged in general farming and stock-raising there for thirteen years. On selling that place he removed to Martin township, where he owned and operated a farm until called from this life on the 30th of March, 1895. He was an honored and valued citizen of his community and had the confidence and high regard of all with whom he

came in contact, either in business or social life. Politically, he was first a Whig and later a Republican, and his support was never withheld from any enterprise which he believed calculated to prove of public good.

To Mr. and Mrs. Harding were born the following children: Paren H. T., who lives in Bloomington; Julia, deceased wife of John Harper, of De Witt county; William, a resident of Taylor, Missouri; Rufus A. J. and Nimrod, who live on the home farm; Chloe E., wife of Joseph A. Thorn, of Anchor township; Mary E., who is with her mother; Dolly M., wife of William Preston, of Bloomington; and Charles A. S., who resides at home and is now a student at Wesleyan College. In the spring of 1898 Mrs. Harding removed to Bloomington, purchasing a pleasant home on East Chestnut street, where she now lives. All her life she has been an earnest and consistent member of the Christian church, and has the respect and esteem of all who know her.

**CAPTAIN HARRISON LAWRENCE,** whose farm lies adjoining the village of Pleasant Hill, Lexington township, is a veteran of the civil war, having a record of four years' hard service. He was born in Richland county, Ohio, June 28, 1840, and is the son of Charles and Eleanor (Bailey) Lawrence, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania and Ohio, respectively, the former born in 1806 and the latter in 1812. The paternal grandfather, John Lawrence, was a farmer by occupation in his native state of Pennsylvania, and never came west. The family trace their origin to one of three brothers who in a very early day left their native country for America, and, being ship-

wrecked, lost all traces of one another, each one not knowing but the others were drowned. The various members of the Lawrence family in America, however, having compared notes, find that each have the same tradition, so it is believed that all the brothers were picked up at sea and finally landed in this country, and each of them married and reared families.

Charles Lawrence, the father, in early life followed teaching as a profession, but later in life was engaged in farming. When about twenty-five years of age he left his native state and located in Richland county, Ohio. He married Eleanor Bailey, by whom he had ten children, nine of whom grew to maturity—George, Rachel E., James, John, Harrison, Lucinda Jane, William, Margaret A. and Sarah Louisa. One died in infancy. In 1852 the mother of these children departed this life, and the father later married Sarah McClune, and by this union there were four children, two of whom lived to maturity—Charles and Hugh. In politics, Charles Lawrence was originally a Whig, and later a Republican. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, as was also his wife.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in his native county, and was educated in the public schools. At the age of twenty he left school, and in April, 1861, under the first call of President Lincoln for volunteers to assist in the suppression of the rebellion, enlisted in the Fifteenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry and served four months, being honorably discharged on the 29th of August, in the same year. While with this regiment he was in no regular engagement, but was in active service at Phillippi, Virginia. Returning home, he remained a very short time, when feeling that his country had still



need of his services, he again enlisted, October 4, 1861, becoming a member of the Sixty-fourth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He enlisted under Colonel John Sherman, as recruiting officer, the colonel, however, never going to the front. Entering the service as a private on the 31st of October, 1861, he was appointed corporal; was promoted sergeant October 21, 1862; first sergeant May 1, 1863; and on the 3d of November, 1864, was commissioned first lieutenant, and February 23, 1865, was promoted and commissioned captain of the company. On account of disability he resigned, and was mustered out of the service May 11, 1865.

Soon after the organization of the regiment it was ordered to Kentucky, where it was actively engaged during the greater part of the year 1862, and was in several skirmishes with the rebels. The first heavy engagement in which the regiment participated was the battle of Stone River. It was sent to Pittsburg Landing, but did not participate in the battle of Shiloh, only serving as ammunition guards. The regiment was under Gen. Crittendon, of the Twenty-first Army Corps, and participated in the battle of Chickamauga. On the 25th of November following it was in the battle of Missionary Ridge. After this the regiment was with Sherman in his Atlanta campaign, which ended in August, 1864, when it was sent back to Chattanooga and opposed Hood during Sherman's march to the sea. From Chattanooga the regiment was sent to Nashville on the way participated in the battle of Spring Hill, November 29, 1864, during which engagement Lieutenant Lawrence was wounded. In the battle of Nashville, which occurred later in the same year, the regiment was engaged, but our subject had not recovered sufficiently to take part.

This battle was the last one of any consequence in which the regiment participated.

On returning to civil life Captain Lawrence engaged in farming in his native county, but in October, 1865, came to McLean county, Illinois, and located in Lexington township, where he rented land and engaged in farming. Later he made a purchase of land adjoining the village of Pleasant Hill, and now owns two hundred and twenty acres of well tilled land, with improvements on the place well adapted to nineteenth century farming.

On the 20th of May, 1869, Captain Lawrence was united in marriage with Miss Cynthia A. Smalley, a native of Illinois, and daughter of Isaac and Nancy Smalley. Five children came to bless their union. Eleanor J. married Frank Wise, and they reside in Chenoa township. Charles S. remains at home and is assisting in the cultivation of the home farm. Emma J. married William Vandevender, and they reside in Lexington township. Bessie B. and William yet remain at home, the latter being a student in the school at Pleasant Hill.

Captain Lawrence is a farmer of acknowledged skill and ability, and while having no fads, devotes his attention to general farming and stock raising. In 1898 he went to the state of Washington, where he has relatives living, and while there secured some magnificent specimens of curios from the Pend d' Oreille river. In politics the Captain is a Republican, and for some years served as school trustee. He is a member of Lexington Post, No. 240, G. A. R., in which he has served in nearly every official capacity. He is also a member of Lexington Lodge, No. 482, A. F. & A. M., and of Ideal Lodge, K. P. Religiously he supports the M. E. church, his wife holding



membership in the Methodist Episcopal church at Pleasant Hill. Both are esteemed for their many good qualities of head and heart.

LUCIUS A. VASEY, a prominent grain dealer and representative of Le Roy, is a native of Illinois, his birth having occurred in McHenry county, August 14, 1849. His father, Richard Vasey, was born in Rome, New York, in 1825, and was a son of William Vasey, a native of England, who on coming to America took up his residence in New York. Rev. Thomas Vasey, a prominent member of the Wesleyan conference of England, was related to the family. Dr. George Vasey, an older brother of the father of our subject, was born near Scarborough, England, in February, 1822, and the following year was brought to the United States by his parents, who settled in Oneida county, New York. His early education was completed at the Oneida Institute, and then he took up the study of medicine, attending three courses of lectures at the Berkshire Medical Institute, from which he was graduated with the class of 1846. Subsequently he spent a short time at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York City, and while there he became personally acquainted with Dr. John Torrey and Asa Gray, who were his friends ever afterward. In 1848 he went to Elgin, Illinois, where engaged in the practice of medicine for eighteen years. Early in life he commenced the study of botany, which he continued for many years in Illinois. He was instrumental in forming the Illinois Natural History Society, of which he was made president, and prepared a complete flora of this state which he presented to the Wesleyan University and which is still pre-

served in the museum of that institution at Bloomington. In April, 1872, he was appointed botanist for the department of agriculture at Washington, D. C., a position he held under the various administrations for twenty-one years, or until his death, with credit to himself and to the advantage and entire satisfaction of the government. He died in Washington, March 4, 1893, at which time resolutions were passed by the officers of the National Museum and the scientific corps of the department of agriculture, expressing in strong terms the high character of the man and his high standing in his chosen profession.

Richard Vasey, the father of our subject, was reared in his native state, and in 1840 came to Illinois, becoming one of the first settlers of McHenry county. There he was united in marriage with Miss Rumamda Pierce, also a native of New York, and to them three sons were born, of whom our subject is the eldest. Emory died on his twenty-first birthday while on a visit in Pennsylvania; Charles H. died at the age of twenty-two. After farming in McHenry county for some years, the father sold his place there and came to McLean county, purchasing a farm adjoining the corporate limits of Bloomington in 1865. He located here for the purpose of educating his children, and after residing thereon for ten years he exchanged the farm for another in Empire township. There he successfully engaged in farming and stock-raising from 1875 until his death, which occurred in September, 1882. His estimable wife still survives him, and now makes her home with our subject.

Lucius A. Vasey went with his parents to Bloomington and entered the Wesleyan University, where he completed the class-

ical course, and was graduated with the class of 1871. He then assisted his father in the operation of the home farm until 1874. On the 14th of April of that year he was married in Bloomington to Miss Amelia J. Tobey, a native of Stockbridge, Massachusetts, who came to this state when a child and was educated in Bloomington, where she afterward successfully engaged in teaching for a number of years. Mr. and Mrs. Vasey began their domestic life at Bellflower, this county, near which village he owned a farm, and was engaged in its operation until his father's death, when he took charge of the old homestead. He made many improvements upon the place, and engaged in stock-raising in connection with general farming. The place is now operated by William Jones, a most excellent farmer, who has aided in its cultivation for twenty-two years, and is known to be thoroughly reliable. In 1889 Mr. Vasey purchased residence property in Le Roy and moved to that village, where he engaged in the grain and coal business for two years. In 1890 he began buying grain at Empire, and in 1897 erected an elevator at that place, which he has since successfully conducted. He is an upright and reliable business man, of sound judgment and keen discrimination, and as a grain-dealer he has steadily prospered.

Mr. Vasey lost his first wife in June, 1879. To them was born a son, Albert William, who is a graduate of Wesleyan University, and is now interested in farming and the grain business. Our subject was again married, in 1881, to a sister of his former wife, Miss Sarah M. Tobey, who was reared and educated in New York. They have an adopted child, Enola, whom they have reared since five years old.

In his political affiliations Mr. Vasey was originally a Republican, and cast his first presidential vote for General U. S. Grant in 1872, but of recent years has supported the men and measures of the Prohibition party, having always been a friend of temperance. He was a delegate to the judicial convention that nominated Judge Reeves, and has been called upon to fill several local offices, having served as justice of the peace for three years and as a member of the school board in Bellflower and Le Roy for sixteen years. He is now a prominent member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Le Roy, with which he is officially connected. Mrs. Vasey has been superintendent of the Sunday school for three years, and held that same office while living in Bellflower. He is a man of exemplary habits, and has ever been found true to every trust reposed in him either in public or private life, and is therefore justly deserving of the high regard in which he is held by his fellow citizens.

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JAMES T. MARTIN, one of the most prominent residents of Chenoa, and recently a farmer of Livingston county, is a native of Ohio, being born in Perry county, on the 28th of March, 1829. He is a son of George and Hester (Moore) Martin, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Tennessee. George Martin was a miller by occupation, and also conducted a sawmill. He was a man of great executive ability and of strong religious views. He was an ardent Methodist, strong in his convictions and clear in his perceptions of duty. Politically he was a Whig. His death occurred in 1862, at the age of sixty-eight years, and that of his wife in 1866, also at the age of sixty-

eight years. There were twelve children in this family, ten of whom grew to maturity, and at the present writing six are living. The subject of this sketch is the eighth child in order of birth, and was reared in his native state, receiving his education in the public schools. He assisted his father in the management of the home farm until 1853, and then went to Low Point, Woodford county, where he learned carpentering, having previously had a wide range of experience in the use of tools, as his father was by nature a mechanic. He worked at his trade until the opening of the civil war, when he placed himself at the services of his country, becoming a member of Company F, Seventy-seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, under J. K. Seccord, Colonel Grier commanding. He participated in the battles of Vicksburg, Fort Hindman, Mansfield, Fort Gains, Fort Morgan and Mobile, and many others. For a time he was detached from the regiment, doing excellent service as a mechanic, and later rejoining his regiment and serving faithfully until the close of the war.

Upon his return to Woodford county and to civil life, our subject worked at his trade until the spring of 1878, when he removed to Livingston county, Illinois, where he purchased one hundred and seventy-five acres of valuable land. This he improved and cultivated, raising a general crop. In 1884 he moved to Chenoa, returning the following year to his farm, where he lived until 1888, again moving to Chenoa, where he now lives a quiet and retired life, free from the cares of business and the bustle of active life. In June, 1862, Mr. Martin was married to Miss Jane Arrowsmith, a native of England, who came to this country in 1852. Three children have come to bless this

union: Louis W., Minnie M. and Anna. Mr. Martin was a trustee of the Methodist Episcopal church, where he and his wife hold membership and where they are prominent and energetic workers. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and in his political principles he is a Republican, who always raises his voice for the good men of the party. He is bright and cheerful in disposition, genial and courteous in manner, and has the good will and esteem of the entire community.

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MATTHEW RICHARDSON, who is now practically living a retired life on his home farm in Dawson township, which comprises three hundred and fifty acres of excellent farm land, is a native of Scotland, born in Dumfriesshire, in November, 1825, and is the son of John and Margaret (Ludermere) Richardson, both of whom were natives of the same shire. They were the parents of six sons and four daughters, of whom our subject is the only one to come to America. John Richardson followed the pursuit of agriculture, and for many years enjoyed a fair degree of success, but unfortunately going security for a friend he lost all. He lost his wife in 1835, and he, too, was called to his reward in 1857.

The subject of this sketch was but ten years of age when his mother died. He continued to remain with his father until his marriage in 1850 to Miss Christina Nichol, who was also born in Dumfriesshire, Scotland. By this union twelve children were born, two of whom died in childhood, Agnes, and one unnamed. Those living are Margaret, Jane, Mary, John, Jeannette, William, Matthew, Archibald, Thomas and George.



After the birth of two children, Margaret and Jane, Matthew Richardson and his wife decided to emigrate to the United States, and after a voyage of five weeks they landed in New York city, from which place they came directly west to Chicago. While en route he had his pocket-book stolen, which, with the exception of twenty-five cents, contained all his money. Fortunately he met a friend in Chicago with whom he remained six weeks and found such employment as his hands could find to do. He then came to McLean county, and when he arrived in Bloomington he had but five dollars, which was the extent of his capital in beginning life in a new and strange country. He rented a tract of land for several years until he was able to secure a farm of his own. His first purchase was one hundred and sixty acres in Belle Flower township, which he cultivated until 1867, when he sold the same and purchased eighty acres on section 11, Dawson township, which constitutes a part of his present homestead.

For nearly half a century Matthew Richardson has been a resident of McLean county. Coming here a poor man, by industry, honesty and perseverance, he has acquired a comfortable competency, and is recognized as one of the most enterprising farmers of the county. In the years that have passed he has made many friends, and at his house the old settlers delight to gather to pass an hour in friendly converse, talking over old times, the trials and hardships they endured, and how they have lived to see the wonderful changes that have been made, more wonderful than man could have even dreamed. Mr. Richardson was one of the organizers of the Old Settlers Society of Dawson township, and in the grove on his farm twelve annual meetings

have been held. No man in Dawson township is better known, and no man is held in higher esteem than the honest old Scotchman, Matthew Richardson, who is everybody's friend.

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DR. BLISS STANDISH HOWE, the manufacturer of the well-known "Dr. Howe's Medicines," is a prominent and successful business man of Bloomington, his office and factory being located at 319 East Mulberry street. He was born near Canandaigua, Ontario county, New York, September 8, 1834, a son of William and Polly (Standish) Howe. His mother was a lineal descendant of Miles Standish, of colonial fame, and was a daughter of Peleg Standish, who at an early day removed to Cayuga county, New York. William Howe continued his residence in the Empire state until 1851, when he removed to Lake county, Illinois, locating in Benton township, when that region was new and unimproved. He was quite a prominent man in his community and served as justice of the peace for a number of years. He lived in Lake county until called from this life, and his wife died in Waukegan, the same county. In their family were six children, and in order of birth were: Sarah Ann, Oscar, Orin, Bliss S., Lucy M. and Vinal.

Dr. Howe, of this review began his education in New York, and after the family came to Illinois, he continued his studies in the schools of Waukegan. He remained upon the home farm until he became interested in the medicine business, first as a collector for Dr. J. M. Frost, of Indianapolis, Indiana. He was also in the employ of others until the fall of 1861, when he came to Bloomington and in 1864





DR. BLISS STANDISH HOWE.

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formed a partnership with Dr. Z. Waters, manufacturing a general line of family medicines under the firm name of Waters & Howe. Our subject traveled with these medicines throughout this state, and had other agents in different parts of the country. Dr. Waters later sold his interest to a Mr. Woodard, and the firm became Woodard & Howe. They did a good business until the winter of 1876-7, when the partnership was dissolved. Up to that time the medicines had been known as the Waters medicines, but in 1878 Dr. Howe began manufacturing them under his own name and has since been alone in business. For a number of years past he has enjoyed an excellent trade in Illinois and Indiana, and has other representatives elsewhere. He still travels in the interests of the business, and has been on the road the greater portion of each year since 1861. He does a large commission business, and his medicines can be obtained at many of the leading wholesale drug houses in this section of the country. Among the preparations he puts up are Dr. Howe's vegetable liver pills, Egyptian salve, linament, instant pain relief, tonic bitters, honey balsam and blackberry balsam. Very few men have traveled longer in the interests of one business or have sold as much medicine as Dr. Howe, he having been on the road for a period of over forty years, and has met with a well-merited success in business. He has erected a pleasant home for himself and family at the corner of McLean and Mulberry streets, and on the same lot also has a good laboratory and barn, all neat and substantial.

Dr. Howe was united in marriage with Miss Florence Savage, of Mahomet, Champaign county, Illinois, a daughter of Moses

and Sarah (Lee) Savage. Moses was a son of William Savage. Sarah Lee was a daughter of Henry Lee, who was a brother of General Robert E. Lee and a native of Virginia, where he was a planter and where he died. Mrs. Howe's father was a native of Virginia and came to Illinois in 1847 and settled in Piatt county, later removed to Champaign county, where he followed farming until his death. Their home is made bright by the presence of an adopted daughter, Fay Marguerite, an orphan, whose mother was Mrs. Howe's sister. The Doctor attends and supports the Baptist church, of which his wife is a member. He has been a life-long Republican and is a member of Wade Barney Lodge, No. 512, A. F. & A. M., also of Chapter No. 26, R. A. M., and Bloomington Council, R. & S. M. Mrs. Howe is a member of the Eastern Star, and is now acting as its treasurer.

**L**EANDER RUTLEDGE, an enterprising and representative farmer of McLean county, resides on section 35, Randolph township. He is a native of the county, and was born on the old homestead adjoining where he now resides, December 5, 1843, and is a son of Robert Rutledge, a native of Kentucky, born in 1810, and who came to Illinois in 1826, when but sixteen years old. He was married in McLean county to Miss Charity Weedman, a native of Ohio, and daughter of George Weedman, who was a pioneer of the county, and their marriage is the first known marriage of a white couple in the county. They located on section 36, Randolph township, where he entered two hundred and forty acres of land and at once commenced its improvement. He later purchased two hundred and forty

acres additional, and here spent the remainder of his life. He died May 10, 1891, at the age of eighty-one years. His wife died some nine years previous.

Leander Rutledge grew to manhood on the old homestead, and when old enough to follow the plow and drop the corn he was given his daily task, and until he gained his majority he assisted in the cultivation of the home farm. His education was obtained in the district schools, which he usually attended in the winter. In 1864 he went to Oakland county, Michigan, and was there united in marriage to Miss Mary Ann Tilghman, a native of that county and state. She is a well-educated lady, and was a teacher in the public schools of her own native state, and also in McLean county, Illinois, previous to her marriage.

After his marriage, Mr. Rutledge located on the farm which was entered by his grandfather Weedman, which has been his home for thirty-five years. His present residence, which was erected in 1894, is on section 35, but on another part of the same farm. In 1891 he rented the place and moved to Hamilton county, Iowa, where he remained three years, and then returned to the old farm, with the thought that McLean county is yet the garden spot of earth. In addition to a general line of farming, he has given special attention to raising cattle, feeding annually from four to six car-loads. The farm is now rented and he is devoting his time principally to building and repairing the place.

To Mr. and Mrs. Rutledge five children were born, one of whom, Eva, died at the age of five years. Louie is now the wife of Edward Dorrell, a farmer of Randolph township. Charity is the wife of Frank Mason, also a farmer of Randolph town-

ship. Martha is the wife of Warren Hayes, a farmer of Downs township. Mary is yet at home.

Leander Rutledge is a life-long Democrat, and in 1864 cast his first presidential ballot for George B. McClellan, and has voted for each presidential nominee of the party from that time to the present. He has never missed a state or county, and but one township election in all that time. While a politician in the true sense of the term, and a firm believer in the principles of his party, he has never aspired to office and has accepted none, save that of school director, only taking that because of his interest in the public schools. The family are all members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Heyworth, of which he is an official, serving as trustee and steward. He is president of the Cemetery Association of Heyworth and is a stockholder and director in the Bloomington Mutual Fire Insurance Company. Fraternally, he is a member of Heyworth Lodge, No. 483, I. O. O. F., and is the present noble grand of the lodge. He and his wife and daughters are members of the Rebecca degree. A life-long resident of the county, he has done his full share in its progress and development, and has ever endeavored to live at peace with all men, doing as he would be done by, and it is safe to say no one in Randolph township is held in higher esteem. His family are also esteemed by all who know them.

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JAMES S. PIERSON, who resides on section 22, Lexington township, is the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and thirty acres, which he keeps under a high state of cultivation. He was born in Knox county, Ohio, August 7, 1821, and is



the son of Arthur VanDyke and Phebe (Cook) Pierson, the former a native of New Jersey, and the latter of Pennsylvania. John Pierson, the grandfather, was a farmer and teamster by occupation, and served as a soldier in the Revolutionary war.

Arthur VanDye Pierson, when about twelve years old, accompanied his parents to western Pennsylvania, and there received his education in the pioneer schools of that locality. When old enough he assisted his father in farming and teaming, doing his duty faithfully and well. He married Phebe Cook, a daughter of Stephen and Sarah Cook, January 15, 1811, and to them were born eleven children, eight of whom grew to maturity—Samuel, Catherine, Sarah, Louisa, James S., Annie, Hannah, Jabez, Arthur V. and Phebe. Of these only our subject and Hannah are now living. Hannah is the widow of Gibler Fox and resides in Downs, Illinois.

In about 1814, Arthur V. Pierson moved with his family to Knox county, Ohio, where he followed farming until 1838, when he came to Illinois, but not liking the state went on to Iowa. He was no better pleased there, and returned to Ohio and resided in Knox county for a time and then moved to Morrow county, where he died May 5, 1842. His wife survived him many years, dying on the 30th of August, 1867. She came west with our subject, and made her home with him until called to the upper and better world.

In the subscription schools of his native county, our subject received his education. The school house was built of logs, with puncheon floor and slab seats for the scholars. He continued in school until about eighteen years old, when he commenced life for himself, working for his father in

the management of the home farm, which he continued to do until the father's death in 1842. He then took charge of the estate, settled up the indebtedness, and run the farm until 1853, when he came to McLean county, Illinois, and located in Money Creek township, where he remained one year. He then moved to Menard county, October, 1855, and located on his present farm in Lexington township. While not classed among the pioneers, he was yet here early enough to see the greater part of the country in its primitive state, with prairie chickens and other wild game in abundance.

On the 30th of July, 1846, Mr. Pierson was united in marriage with Miss Mary J. Morrison, a native of Ohio, born September 12, 1826, and daughter of William and Mary (Young) Morrison, both natives of Ireland, and of Scotch and Irish parents. By this union there were seven children, the first dying in infancy. Of the remainder, Arthur VanDyke is living in Lexington township; Mary L. is the wife of Dr. T. D. Douglass, of Colfax, Illinois; Emily married James A. Bailey, and they reside in Crawford county, Indiana; James Elmer died December 8, 1893; Sarah E. is living at home with her parents; and Grace, who married Howard McFarland, died January 19, 1897.

In addition to general farming, our subject has given much attention to sheep raising, in which he has been very successful. In politics, he was originally a Whig, casting his first presidential vote for General Winfield Scott. Since the organization of the Republican party he has been a stanch advocate of its principles. He is a member of the Presbyterian church, as is also his wife and family.

**HUGH VAUGHAN.** In this intelligent age when men of energy, industry and merit are rapidly pushing their way to the front, those who, by their own individual efforts, have won favor and fortune, may properly claim recognition. Among this number is the subject of this sketch, who lives on section 36, Chenoa township, where his fine farm attracts the eye of the most casual observer. He is a native of Wales, born in Montgomeryshire, November 20, 1834, and is the son of Edward and Elizabeth (Davis) Vaughan, both of whom were natives of the same shire. Edward Vaughan was the son of Hugh Vaughan, also a native of Wales, who followed farming and mining in his native country. He was a large landed proprietor, and was quite an extensive farmer and miner. Of his family of five children Edward was the oldest.

Edward Vaughan grew to manhood in Wales, where he followed agricultural pursuits. He married Elizabeth Davis and they became the parents of six children: Jane, Hugh, Robert, Edward, John and Mary. Of these Jane died at the age of thirty years. Of the sons, Robert and Hugh came to the United States. The former on his arrival concluded to remain in New York for a time, but after remaining there for about six months went to Ohio, where he engaged in the oil business, and there continued for two years. He then came to Illinois, where he also spent two years, and then went to Montana, where he is now living, engaged in the stock business. He has been quite successful in that far western state, and is quite an enterprising man. He and his wife are members of the Church of England.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in his native country and was reared

to farm life. At the age of twenty-one he determined to try his fortune in free America, and in June, 1857, he landed in New York, and going to Oneida county, New York, he there remained two and a half years, and in 1859 came to McLean county, Illinois, and located in Lexington, where he engaged in manual labor, working by the month. In the spring of 1860 he purchased eighty acres of land, and in addition rented eighty acres and commenced farming on his own responsibility.

Realizing that it was not good for man to be alone, on the 8th of April, 1860, he was united in marriage with Miss Helen Jones, also a native of Montgomeryshire, Wales, born November 28, 1834, and daughter of Hugh and Jane (Evans) Jones, both of whom were also natives of the same country. Hugh Jones was a large farmer in Wales, and never came to this country. Mrs. Vaughan came over on the same vessel with her future husband, but they did not wed for a few years afterwards. To them have been born eight children: Edward R. died at the age of twenty years, while stopping with his uncle Robert, in Montana. Viola J. married Kenneth McIver, and with their two children they now reside in Great Falls, Montana. Hugh died at the age of nine months. Elizabeth Mary, Grace J., Robert E., Margaret I. and John G. are living at home with their parents. Robert is assisting his father in the cultivation of the home farm, and is a young man of good business ability.

On landing in the United States, Mr. Vaughan had but fifty dollars, and that has served as the basis for his added accumulations. He is a self-made man in every sense of the word, having the assistance of no one on this side of the water, but with

the steadfast determination to succeed, he bravely took up the battle of life in a strange country and success has crowned his efforts. His fine farm of two hundred and forty acres is under a high state of cultivation, with splendid improvements, including fine dwelling, large barn and various outbuildings, and all the improvements made are the result of his own industry and thrift.

In politics Mr. Vaughan is a Republican, his first presidential vote being cast for Illinois' greatest son, Abraham Lincoln, in 1864. Mrs. Vaughan is a member of the Congregationalist church, and while Mr. Vaughan is not a member, he attends the same and contributes to its support. He donated the land for the Methodist Episcopal church, and has contributed to its support. In fact, there is no benevolent or charitable object but finds in him a sympathizer and one willing to contribute to the extent of his ability. He holds a high place in the esteem of his fellow citizens, and is worthy of all the honors bestowed. In addition to his home farm, he is the owner of an eighty-acre tract in Dewey county, South Dakota, and a good lot in Great Falls, Montana.

The mother was born in Ohio and was a daughter of George Kern, a native of Pennsylvania and a representative of an old Pennsylvania Dutch family whose early home was near Reading, that state. At an early day he removed to Ohio, passing through the present city of Cincinnati, when it contained but one log cabin, and going forty miles back into the country he took up a claim in Montgomery county, where he spent the remainder of his life. His son still lives on the old homestead there, it having been in possession of the family for more than a century.

Peter Capp, father of our subject, was one of the pioneers of Indiana, locating near Delphi, when the Indians were far more numerous in that region than the white settlers. There he took up a claim of one hundred and sixty acres and built a house, residing there until his death which occurred during the infancy of our subject. After that sad event the mother returned to her father's home in Montgomery county, Ohio, and remained there for some years, but spent her last days in Fairbury, Illinois. In her family were eight children who reached years of maturity, but only two are now living, namely: Mrs. Sarah Zimmerman, of Fairbury, Illinois; and George, of Lincoln, Nebraska.

Mr. Capp, of this review, was reared on his grandfather's farm in Montgomery county, Ohio, until seventeen years of age and acquired his education in a little brick school house of the neighborhood. He then went to Hamilton county, the same state, where he learned the blacksmith trade, and later worked as a journeyman in Indiana until coming to Henry, Marshall county, Illinois.

While in that county the civil war broke out and Mr. Capp enlisted in Company B,

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**T**HEOPHILUS F. CAPP, an honored veteran of the civil war and who was a well-known blacksmith of Bloomington, was born near Delphi, Indiana, August 28, 1835, and was a son of Peter and Sarah (Kern) Capp. The father was a native of Germany and on his emigration to America when a young man, he first settled in Pennsylvania, but later located near Germantown, Ohio, where his marriage was celebrated.



Forty-seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, being mustered into the United States service August 16, 1861, at Peoria, two months after his enlistment. With his regiment he was then sent to Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, where they were drilled and equipped, and as sergeant of his company proceeded with them to Jefferson City, Missouri, where they occupied little wedge shape tents until February, 1862, when they moved on to Ottoville. On the 5th of March they were ordered to break camp and cross the Missouri river at Columbia. They then marched to St. Charles, just above St. Louis, and proceeded by railroad to Carondolet. They remained in Jefferson Barracks until taking the boat for a place about opposite Cairo, and spent a few weeks in reconnoitering through Missouri. Returning to Cairo they boarded the steamer Gray Eagle, on which they spent three weeks, and on finally landing at Island No. 10 marched to New Madrid. Before the surrender of Island No. 10, they met the enemy and fell back. After going into camp they received orders to get ready five-days rations' and forty rounds of ammunition, and under light marching orders, Mr. Capp's brigade, which was the Second Brigade, Second Division, Fifteenth Army Corps, marched until daylight through swamps and finally reached the Mississippi river below Germantown, formed in line and were ordered to lay down on arms. After sleeping thus in the cold frosty air for a few hours, they were ordered forward to capture the little town, which was a landing place on the Mississippi inside the rebel lines, but the Confederate gunboats drove them back a mile and a half. They had no tents, and as they had brought with them only rations enough for five days and were gone three weeks, they were

forced to go some time without food except corn which they grated on a canteen punched full of holes. After the island was captured they succeeded in getting better rations. On the Gray Eagle the brigade went down the river below Helena and at this time Mr. Capp was promoted to the rank of second lieutenant. A few weeks after the capture of Island No. 10 the troops started for Shiloh by way of the Mississippi, Ohio and Tennessee, but did not arrive there until the day after the battle. Here our subject was commissioned first lieutenant. With the command he went to Corinth and took part in the engagement at that place, it being his first battle of any importance. The night before the evacuation he saw the rockets sent up and the blowing up of the magazine there. The regiment to which he belonged spent the summer at Rienzi, and September 19, 1862, participated in the battle of Iuka. Mr. Capp's column arrived there at sundown and had to shoot at close range under the hottest fire he ever encountered. In this engagement his major was captured. That night the Union troops slept on their arms, and at midnight were ordered to crawl back three or four hundred yards and form a line, but at daylight the rebels had disappeared. After following them for a day and a half they returned to Corinth, where a battle was begun October 3, the Union army being defeated the first day and falling back behind the breastworks. The second day, however, the Second brigade lay back of Fort Robert and Vendome, and when Price's forces came up they received a cross fire which drove them back defeated. Here the Forty-seventh Illinois lost one hundred and fifty men, including about five commissioned officers. Under command of



General Grant they next went to La Grange to make ready for the Vicksburg campaign, the Second brigade marching at the head of the column. A new regiment, the One Hundred and First Illinois, had just arrived, and the following morning was placed at the head of the column, but before 10 A. M. not one of them were in line. The troops proceeded to Oxford, but as Vendome and Price took Holly Springs, where the One Hundred and First had stopped, the whole brigade had to march back to their assistance. They then proceeded toward Vicksburg via Youngs Point, where the army dug a number of canals, etc., and continued their march down the west side of the river to a point below Port Hudson, the boats having already run the blockade at Vicksburg. Re-crossing the river the rear of the army became detached and lived off the country. Our subject's brigade, which was on the extreme right, camped at Jackson, Mississippi, and he spent one day and two nights in the capital grounds. By orders from headquarters he was made commander of the guards for General Grant and staff at the Bowman House, where he remained until May 19, 1863. He was then on the picket line, digging pits until May 22, when a general assault was made. He lay in the hollow in front of the battery all day, it being a place where it was impossible to advance or retreat. The next day, with his brigade, he went up the Yazoo river to Yazoo City in search of Johnston's army, and on their return after two weeks' absence were sent across the Mississippi river opposite Vicksburg to prevent the rebels from going in or out. They were next sent down to the levee to watch, it being a place where they could do nothing, though fired upon from across the river and from the

sides for twenty-four hours and their loss was severe. After that details of one hundred men were sent to watch until the surrender of Vicksburg, July 4, 1863. Mr. Capp was in command of the guard when all the gunboats came in with colors flying, making a most beautiful sight. His services in behalf of the sick and wounded at this place will never be forgotten by the many from his regiment and others that he aided in returning to their homes. He was selected to carry a petition to General Grant's headquarters. After the surrender of Vicksburg the army went back twenty-five miles east of that place to Black river, and after spending the summer there went on the Red river expedition. About this time Mr. Capp was detached and sent north as a recruiting officer with ten non-commissioned men under him. With headquarters at Peoria he swore in the men enlisting and sent them to St. Louis or the regiments which they wished to join. In April, 1864, he was ordered back to New Orleans, but as his regiment had not returned from the Red river expedition he went to Memphis, where he finally rejoined his command and where they remained during the summer. He was sent out on an expedition after Forest, and was in a two days' fight with that general's men. Returning to headquarters in Memphis he remained there until the expiration of his term of enlistment, serving as quartermaster. He was mustered out October 11, 1864, and returned home with a war record of which he may be justly proud.

Mr. Capp resumed business at the blacksmith's trade in Henry, Marshall county, Illinois, but in 1867 came to Bloomington. For about ten years he was foreman of the mechanical department of the Walton Plow

Works while they were located at Bloomington, and made the first dies for the first plows manufactured and all of the forms and patterns until the company sold out. The noted Walton plow was all his own idea, and he personally worked on them as well as superintended their manufacture. For three years he was also with the Satley Manufacturing Company of Springfield, and held a similar position with that concern, but on account of the gas in the factory he had to give up the business. Here he had charge of seventy-five men in the blacksmith shop and grinding and polishing rooms, and on leaving the company he was presented by the employes with a beautiful gold-headed ebony cane as a token of their regard and respect. On his return to Bloomington he opened a shop of his own and did a successful general blacksmithing business. On East street, where his shop was located, he owned forty-six feet front, and he also owned his pleasant home at No. 506 North Center street, which was erected by him. He was quite prominent in Grand Army circles, and served as commander of William T. Sherman Post, No. 146, G. A. R., and represented it at the state encampment. He manifested the same loyalty in days of peace as in days of war, and all who knew him had for him the highest regard. He attended and supported the First Methodist Episcopal church. His death occurred March 28, 1899.

On the 21st of November, 1865, Mr. Capp was united in marriage with Miss Elma E. Hoyt, of Henry, Illinois, a daughter of Matthew Hoyt. They have two children: Frank M., who graduated from the Wesleyan Law School with the degree of LL. B., and Helen Hoyt, who is a fine musician.

JOHN A. EWINS, deceased, was for many years one of the best known citizens of McLean county, a man who stood high in the estimation of the people, a good farmer, business man and citizen. He was born in Kingston, New Hampshire, in November, 1825, and was the son of James P. and Mehitabel (Clement) Ewins. His early boyhood was spent among the granite hills of his native state, and in 1834 he accompanied his parents to Illinois, the family stopping for a time in Chicago, during which time he attended school on the south side of that city, which was then but a mere village, giving little promise of its future greatness.

Believing he could better himself, James P. Ewins, in December, 1834, went with his family to LaSalle county, and located in Waupansie grove, where he made claim to two hundred acres of land. This land was subsequently purchased by some eastern capitalist, for speculative purposes, but one-half was deeded to Mr. Ewins, because of information he furnished about the country. After living in LaSalle county for nearly two years, in the fall of 1836 he came to McLean county, and located near the present village of Danvers, where in the spring of 1837 he purchased forty acres of land, and where he made his home until called from this world in November, 1846.

The subject of this sketch remained at home until he attained his majority, when he commenced life for himself. His education which was begun in his native state, was completed in the schools of McLean county, and while that obtained within the school room may not have been very great, yet by reading and observation he became a well-informed man, and was always well posted in the current events of the day. In

the spring of 1856 he engaged in the mercantile business, having for the previous ten years being engaged in agricultural pursuits. Two years' experience in the mercantile business in the village of Danvers was sufficient for him, and in 1858 he returned to the farm. In addition to general farming, he was a large dealer in cattle and hogs, in which line he met with good success. From time to time he added to the area of his possessions until he was the owner of over six hundred acres of good farming land. In 1869 he purchased a half interest in the Danvers mill, which he sold in 1873.

Mr. Ewins was twice married, his first union, which was celebrated in 1854, being with Miss Euphemia R. Blair, a native of Illinois, who only lived ten days. On the 10th of April, 1856, he was again married, his second union being with Miss Malinda T. Franks, a native of Boone county, Kentucky, born February 9, 1835, and daughter of James T. and Rebecca (Walton) Franks, the former a native of Virginia, born in Frederick county, December 1, 1795, and the latter of Boone county, Kentucky, born December 28, 1810.

James T. Franks, who was the son of a Virginia planter, grew to manhood in his native state and there married Miss Malinda Oriar, and by this marriage there was no issue. While residing in Virginia he was the overseer on a large plantation. From Virginia he moved to Kentucky about 1829, and there married Miss Rebecca Walton, and they became the parents of eleven children that grew to maturity, of whom Mrs. Ewins was third in order of birth. In 1836 he came to Illinois and settled in Tazewell county, where he engaged in farming for nine years. In 1845 he came to McLean county and located in Danvers township,

where he bought land and continued to reside, engaged in farming, until his death, December 30, 1872. His wife survived him ten years, dying December 25, 1882. He was an excellent farmer and stock raiser, and was quite successful in life. Notwithstanding he was reared in a slave state and was himself an overseer of a plantation on which were many slaves, he became a Republican in politics and voted with that party as long as he lived. In religion he was a Cumberland Presbyterian, as was also his wife.

To Mr. and Mrs. Ewins five children were born: Jennie L. married B. F. Harber, and they reside in Bloomington, where he is engaged in the wholesale implement business. Frank P. is living in Kansas City, Missouri, where he is engaged in the hotel business, owning and managing three hotels. He married Miss Amelia Clark, and they have had three children, one of whom, Harry, died at the age of five years. The living are John A. and Louise, who are at home with their parents. Carrie died at the age of one year and three months. Mary died when but three and a half months old. Chester R. is engaged in farming, operating the home farm of four hundred acres in Danvers township. (See sketch on another page of this work.)

The popularity of Mr. Ewins among his neighbors is attested by his election for fourteen years as a member of the county board of supervisors. In that body he took a very active part, and was one of the most influential members, being clear-headed, conservative, and yet withal enterprising, always ready to aid in every public improvement. He was a thorough and consistent Republican, believing strongly in the principles of the party, and lending his aid for



their promulgation. While not a member of any church, he was a believer in the Christian religion and with his wife, who is a member of that body, attended the Cumberland Presbyterin church. On the 1st of August, 1895, he was called to his reward, and it is safe to say the loss of no man in Danvers township was ever more deeply felt. His friends were numerous not only in the township but throughout the county, which was his home for very nearly a half century. His widow is yet living, and makes her home in the village of Danvers, where she is loved and respected by all.

**WASHINGTON IRVING MERWIN.** When, after years of long and earnest labor in some honorable field of business, a man puts aside all cares to spend his remaining years in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil, it is certainly a well-deserved reward of his industry.

"How blest is he who crowns in shades like these,  
A youth of labor with an age of ease,"

wrote the poet, and the world everywhere recognizes the justice of a season of rest following an active period of business life. Mr. Merwin is now living retired at his beautiful home in Bloomington, and his history is one that shows the accomplishment of well-directed labor.

He was born in Kinderhook, Columbia county, New York, May 30, 1834, a son of Jesse and Jane (Van Dyke) Merwin, and was named for Washington Irving, the noted author, whose home was at Tarrytown-on-the-Hudson, and who frequently visited our subject's father at Kinderhook, as they were warm friends. The character of Ichabod Crane in Irving's Sketch Book is that of Mr. Merwin. The Merwins were originally from

Wales, and the first of the family to come to America settled at Milford's Point, Connecticut, which was later known as Merwin's Point. The father of our subject was born at that place, August 2, 1784, and when young removed with his parents to Kinderhook, New York, where the family were neighbors of President Martin Van Buren, who thought a great deal of our subject. The father spent his active life as a farmer in Kinderhook, and filled the office of justice of the peace for twelve years. He was an ardent supporter of the Democratic party, and one of the leading and prominent men of his township, which he represented on the board of supervisors. He died there November 8, 1852. His wife, who was born September 12, 1788, long survived him, passing away in 1882, at the advanced age of ninety-four years. Her father, Peter Van Dyke, belonged to an old Dutch family, and was a soldier of Revolutionary war. Her mother, who bore the maiden name of Marie Foland, lived to the extreme age of one hundred and two years. To the parents of our subject were born eleven children, eight sons and three daughters, of whom four are still living, our subject being the youngest of the family. The others are as follows: Peter, born October 16, 1810, was a farmer of Kinderhook, who died about 1860; Daniel E., born September 12, 1812, was a dentist of Valatie, New York, and died January 5, 1865; Henry, born July 16, 1814, was a resident of Hartford, Connecticut, where he died March 28, 1866; Catherine, born March 11, 1816, married Martin Link, of Hudson, New York, and died about 1889; Asher, born March 30, 1818, came to McLean county, Illinois, in 1852, but since 1884 has lived in Palatka, Florida; Alber-



tine, born May 4, 1821, married John M. Waltermire, who died in 1856, leaving two children, and she later married Theodore Shultz, and they now make their home in Kinderhook; Cornelius, born April 30, 1820, died June 30, 1871, at Valatie, New York; Jane E., born December 19, 1824, married David Waltermire, and died August 5, 1876; Samuel, born May 19, 1829, lived at Valatie and died in 1895; and David, who makes his home in Kinderhook on the old homestead.

Mr. Merwin, of this review, grew to manhood upon his father's farm and his education was acquired in the common schools and academy of Kinderhook. On the 3d of December, 1856, he was united in marriage with Miss Mary Reynolds, of that place, a daughter of John N. and Elizabeth (Eaton) Reynolds, who were also born and reared in Kinderhook and were representatives of old New England families. Of the seven children born to this union all are still living, namely: James R., who is engaged in the loan business in Bloomington, wedded Mary Miller and has one child, Louis; Mary A. is the wife of Walker Boulware, of Folsom, Illinois, and has three children, Lucile, Louis and Hardin M.; Clarence B. married Nettie Stone and has two children, Margaret and Ruth; Kitty V. D. is at home; Louis B. married Miss Jessie O., daughter of W. O. Davis, and is assistant cashier of the Third National Bank, of Bloomington; Ada is at home; and Leonard R. married Leonora Fiber, of Chicago, and is manager of the Boston Dental Parlors, of Chicago.

After his marriage, Mr. Merwin became interested in mercantile business in Kinderhook and met with excellent success. On selling out he went to New York City,

where he conducted a large fancy grocery on the Bowery, and also had a stand in Tompkins' market, and continued operations there until disposing of his business during the excitement of the civil war. He then purchased a farm, which after operating for four or five years he sold at an advance of forty dollars per acre. After that he engaged in the hardware business and sold out and bought a farm—later engaged in the confectionery and bakery business at Valatie, Kinderhook township, Columbia county, New York, and did an excellent business, as he had no competitors. Finding that the long hours were wearing both himself and his family out, he sold in 1876 and came west. Though never an office seeker he had been called upon to fill a number of local positions of honor and trust. For seven years he was a member of the town board in Kinderhook.

On reaching Illinois, in 1876, Mr. Merwin took up his residence in Padua, McLean county, where he opened a general store carrying a large and well-selected stock of goods. He became the leading business man of the place and dealt quite extensively in grain, stock, coal and lumber, handling from one hundred and fifty to two hundred thousand bushels of grain annually. He was one of the first in this region to put in operation the new style perpetual hay press, sending to New York for his engine, and has pressed and loaded a car of hay in eight hours. His grain and hay he shipped to eastern markets in Massachusetts, New York and Canada; his stock to Chicago. In connection with his other business interests he engaged in the manufacture of tile, running four kilns and giving employment to twelve men. While engaged in that business he manufactured hundreds of thou-

sands of tile. He also served as station agent for the Lake Erie & Western Railroad, and as express agent and postmaster at Padua. He owned and operated a feed mill and practically carried on all the business of the town. He had a telephone which gave him communication with the outside world, and was one of the most progressive, enterprising and up-to-date business men of the community. During his residence there he served as justice of the peace, and in that office performed many marriage ceremonies and had had many laughable experiences. He remained in business at Padua until 1882, when he came to Bloomington and was engaged in the grocery trade for three years. At the end of that time he returned to Bloomington, where he has since lived, having erected a handsome residence at No. 1302 East Grove street, at the corner of Kreitzer avenue, where he has an acre of land, making a beautiful lawn about his home. When the place was built it seemed "way out" in the country, but houses have since been erected far beyond it during the past five years. Mr. Merwin has large green houses heated by hot water one mile east of his home, and to these he gives his personal attention. He has also for some years been quite a successful dealer in city real estate.

Mr. Merwin has always been a patriotic and loyal citizen, and as he was ill when the civil war broke out, he hired a substitute, although he would not have been liable to have been drafted. Since coming to this state he has been an ardent supporter of the Republican party and as a public-spirited citizen withholds his aid from no enterprise which he believes will prove of benefit. For many years he and his wife have been connected with the Methodist

Episcopal church, and now hold membership in the First Methodist Episcopal church of Bloomington, of which he has been a trustee, but is not at present an officer. As a citizen, friend and neighbor, he is true to every duty and justly merits the esteem in which he is held.

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DAVID H. MCFARLAND, M. D. In comparison of the relative value to mankind of the various professions and pursuits it is widely recognized that none is so important as the medical profession. From the cradle to the grave human destiny is largely in the hands of the physician. One of the ablest representatives of this noble calling in McLean county is the gentleman whose name introduces this sketch. For over a third of a century he has been successfully engaged in practice in Heyworth, and he stands deservedly high in social as well as professional circles.

The Doctor was born in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, October 16, 1831, and is a worthy representative of one of the honored pioneer families of that state. His ancestors were originally from Scotland, and were among the first settlers of Franklin county, Pennsylvania. His paternal grandfather, James McFarland, was a native of the Keystone state and was a soldier of the Revolutionary war. The father, Colonel Joseph McFarland, who served with distinction in some of the early wars of this country, was born and reared in Franklin county, and there was united in marriage with Miss Nancy Clark Humphreys, also a native of that county and a daughter of David Humphreys, who was a representative of another old and prominent family of that state. During early life Joseph Mc-

Farland engaged in farming in Franklin county, and afterward carried on business as a merchant at Harrisonville, Bedford county, Pennsylvania, for several years, but finally sold out and returned to his native county. In 1848 he removed to Clinton county, Indiana, where he improved a farm, making his home thereon for a number of years. His death occurred in Hanover, Indiana, in 1865, when he was nearly eighty-seven years of age. His wife died on the Clinton county farm in 1851.

Dr. McFarland was a young man of seventeen years when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Indiana, and he assisted his father in transforming the wild prairie land into a productive farm. He had good school advantages, attending not only the common schools of his native state but also Marshall College of Pennsylvania. He remained under the parental roof until after his mother's death, in 1851, when he went to Monongahela City, Washington county, Pennsylvania, where he clerked in a store for twenty-eight months, thus receiving a thorough business training, which has been of great benefit to him in later years. Returning to Frankfort, Indiana, he was similarly employed in a retail establishment there for about a year and about the same length of time in a wholesale store. As clerk and manager, he then had entire charge of a drug store in Frankfort for Dr. William Dunn, and while there began the study of medicine under the doctor. He also pursued his studies under the direction of Drs. Byers and Carter, and took his first course of lectures at Rush Medical College, Chicago, in the winter of 1857-8. Returning to Frankfort, he engaged in the practice of his chosen profession there for over a year, and later opened an office at Han-

over, Indiana, where he was living when the civil war broke out. In 1861 he enlisted in the Union service for three years, and was appointed assistant surgeon of the Fifteenth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, with which he went to the front and was in active service until November, 1862, when he resigned his commission and returned home.

At Frankfort, June 22, 1859, Dr. McFarland was united in marriage with Miss Miriam E. Dunn, a daughter of John E. Dunn, a merchant of that city, and a niece of Dr. William Dunn, previously mentioned, and Hon. Williamson McKee Dunn, congressman from the Hanover district of Indiana. After a happy married life of thirty-two years, Mrs. McFarland passed away at her home in Heyworth, Illinois, June 5, 1891, and was laid to rest in the cemetery at that place, where a monument has been erected to her memory.

Immediately after his return home from the army, Dr. McFarland came to McLean county, Illinois, and resumed practice in Heyworth, where he has since made his home. After taking another course of lectures at Rush Medical College, he was graduated in the class of 1869. During his study in Chicago he was assistant surgeon at the Chicago hospital and also graduated from Blaney laboratory. Returning to Heyworth well qualified to resume practice, he has met with signal success and has built up a large and lucrative practice, giving his entire time and attention to his professional duties, and by reading and study keeping abreast with the latest discoveries and theories in the science. Politically, Dr. McFarland was originally an old line Whig, but on the organization of the Republican party in 1856, he cast his ballot for John C. Fremont, and has since been one of its



stanch supporters. His first vote was for General Winfield Scott. For a number of years he has been a faithful member of the Presbyterian church of Heyworth, and his life has been manly, his actions sincere, his manner unaffected, and his example is well worthy of emulation.

**G**EORGE W. GASTMAN, a prominent and representative citizen of Hudson, needs no special introduction to the readers of this volume, but the work would be incomplete without the record of his life. He is one of the pioneers of the county, and no man in his community has been more prominently identified with public affairs.

Mr. Gastman was born in New York City, at No. 100 Henry street, July 12, 1837, a son of Enoch A. and Margaret A. (Higgins) Gastman. The father was born near Amsterdam, Holland, June 15, 1801, and came to America late in the '20s. He was married in New York City in 1830 to Miss Margaret A. Higgins, a native of County Tipperary, Ireland, who on coming to the new world at an early age first located in Quebec, Canada, and later in New York City, where she and her husband continued to make their home until 1838. It was on the 8th of June of that year that they arrived in Bloomington, Illinois. In the east the father had been employed as a city watchman and drayman, but on coming to this country turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. As a member of the Hudson colony he acquired one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 15, Hudson township, and four lots in the village of that name. In connection with the operation of his land he worked at the trade

of a mason and plasterer, which he had learned in early life. He was a Jacksonian Democrat, having cast his first presidential vote for "Old Hickory," and he took a very active part in public affairs, serving as deputy sheriff under Ed Pike, and also as school director for several terms. To his original tract of land he added eighty acres and continued to engage in farming throughout life. Religiously, he was first a member of the Christian church, but about 1860 united with the Methodist Episcopal church, and died in that faith July, 1875. He was a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge of Bloomington, No. 77, and was buried with the honors of that order. He was thrice married, his first wife and the mother of our subject having departed this life February 25, 1857. By that union he had three children, of whom our subject is the second in order of birth. Enoch A., Jr., the oldest, has devoted his life to educational work, and has been superintendent of the city schools of Decatur, Illinois, for thirty-nine years. Francis M. was one of the boys in blue who laid down his life on the altar of his country during the civil war. Leaving school at Normal, he enlisted in 1861, in Company A, Thirty-third Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which company was principally made up of students from that institution, and he died of pneumonia at Reeves Station, on Black river, Missouri.

The subject of this sketch was only a year old when brought by his parents to McLean county, and was reared upon the home farm in Hudson township, a portion of which he now owns. He attended first the district schools but completed his education at Eureka College, where he spent two years. On starting out in life for himself he engaged in farming and in March,



1863, located on the old homestead, to the cultivation of which he devoted his energies until his removal to the village of Hudson in February, 1885. He most successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising, he and his brother giving special attention to the breeding of Berkshire hogs. He is still the owner of one hundred and twenty-five acres of the old home farm, and forty acres on section 2.

On the 5th of April, 1860, Mr. Gastman was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth J. Woolen, who was born on section 26, Hudson township, her parents, James and Catherine Woolen, having come to this country at an early day from Ohio. She has one sister living, Mary A., wife of Charles J. Hicks, of Fitzgerald, Georgia. Mr. and Mrs. Gastman had a family of four children: Margaret A., born March 16, 1861, is now the widow of William A. Hitch and resides in Hudson; Francis M., born June 22, 1864, also lives in Hudson; Angenett, born 12, 1866, died August 25, 1889; and Hattie E., born October 22, 1867, is the wife of John M. Byrd, of Hudson.

In 1868 Mr. Gastman commenced giving some attention to surveying, and has held the office of deputy surveyor both in McLean and Livingston counties for two terms each. In the fall of 1871 he was appointed by the circuit court of Shelby county to locate twelve miles of county line between that and Christian county, and to establish some twenty section lines in the former, being one of the three commissioners chosen from different counties for that purpose. His duties in that position were most ably and satisfactorily performed. In 1872 Mr. Gastman was elected justice of the peace in Hudson township, to fill a

vacancy of two years, and with the exception of one term has held the office continuously ever since, being re-elected at the end of each term. He is thoroughly impartial in meting out justice, his opinions being unbiased by either fear or favor, and his fidelity to any trust reposed in him is above question. He has served for fourteen consecutive years as notary public; for twenty-three years as highway commissioner; and for a quarter of a century as school director in his district. The first public office he was called upon to fill was that of township clerk.

Since 1885 Mr. Gastman has made his home in the city of Hudson, where he erected a pleasant residence the fall previously. For two years he assisted in the grain business of Hasenwinkle & Cox, but since then he has given the greater part of his time to his official duties, though for thirteen years he has represented the Home and Queen Insurance Companies in his town. During his residence here he has been a member of the village board four years and president of the same for three years; treasurer of the school board eight years, and school trustee three years. He has served in some official capacity almost continuously since attaining his majority and has been called upon to act as administrator of several estates. Politically, he is a Democrat, but at local elections votes for the men whom he believes best qualified to fill the offices, regardless of party affiliations. Socially, he is a member of Old Colony Lodge, No. 857, I. O. O. F.; and religiously his estimable wife holds membership in the Methodist Episcopal church. He is regarded as one of the leading and most highly respected citizens of his community, and it is, therefore, consistent that

he be represented in a work whose province is the portrayal of the lives of the prominent men of McLean county.

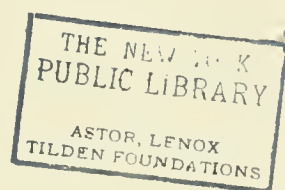
**M**ATHIAS E. DENMAN. Among the successful and prosperous representatives of the agricultural interests of McLean county is the gentleman whose name heads this sketch. He is entirely a self-made man in the truest sense of the word, as he started out in life for himself with nothing but his indomitable energy and a determination to success, and through his own well-directed efforts and good business ability has succeeded in accumulating a comfortable competence that enables him to spend his declining years in ease and quiet, free from the turmoil of business life. He still resides upon his farm on section 34, White Oak township, but for the past twelve years he has lived retired.

Mr. Denman was born in Licking county, Ohio, March 3, 1820, and is a son of Zenas H. and Jane (Smith) Denman, natives of New Jersey and Virginia, respectively. His grandfather, Mathias Denman, for whom he was named, was born near Elizabeth, New Jersey, and at an early day removed to Licking county, Ohio, where he improved a farm and spent the remainder of his life. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Elizabeth B. Townsley, was a descendant of Lord Townsley. The father of our subject was seventeen years of age when he went with the family to Ohio, and there he continued to make his home throughout life, dying there in 1871, at the age of eighty-one years. By occupation he was a farmer. In his family were nine children who reached years of maturity, and four of the number are still living, namely:

Mathias E., our subject; Nathan S., who still resides on the old homestead in Ohio; Roverta, wife of Lucius Z. Hoyt, of Licking county, Ohio; and Augustin A., of Hall county, Nebraska.

In his native state Mathias Denman grew to manhood, and he acquired his education in a primitive log school-house, to which he had to walk a distance of three miles. As soon as old enough to be of any assistance he was forced to leave school and aid his father in chopping cord-wood, which in the spring of the year they burned, manufacturing it into charcoal for use in furnaces. He remained under the parental roof until twenty-three years of age and was then married, November 29, 1842, to Miss Elizabeth B. Smith, who was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, April 8, 1822, a daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (Gander) Smith, natives of Virginia, where they continued to make their home until after the birth of three of their children, and then removed to Salt Creek township, Muskingum county, Ohio. That region then was all wild and unimproved, and there they spent the remainder of their lives. Mrs. Denman was the eighth in order of birth in their family of fifteen children, six of whom are still living.

Of the twelve children born to our subject and his wife three died in infancy, and the others are as follows: Martha, who died at the age of twenty-seven years, unmarried; Elizabeth, who died at the age of fourteen; John H., who was married in Dewitt county, Illinois, to Mary Ellis, and now lives in Sac county, Iowa; Thomas S. and Jane, twins, the former a farmer of Benton county, Indiana, the latter the deceased wife of Philip Carlock, of Carlock, this county; Eunice, wife of Henry Gilstrap, of Tacoma, Wash-





MATHIAS E. DENMAN.





MRS. ELIZABETH B. DENMAN.

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ington; Daniel E., who married Armedia Carlock, daughter of Winton Carlock, and resides on the home farm; Charles L. has been twice married, his first wife was Miss Nannie Bush, of Normal; his second wife Miss Mary J. Baldrige, and they live on the home farm; and Belle, at home.

After his marriage Mr. Denman learned the trade of a blacksmith, which he followed in Licking county, Ohio, for ten years. In 1852 he hired a man to bring him and his family to McLean county, Illinois, and here he began life with no capital save a poor horse, a good constitution and a determination to succeed. His family then consisted of wife and five small children. He arrived here in October and located in White Oak township, where he at first engaged in farming through the summer and followed his trade during the winter. When his own work was dull he worked for others at day labor. He first pre-empted a tract of land on section 31, Hudson township, and in 1855 was the proud possessor of one hundred and eighty-six acres, which was all raw prairie and four miles from the nearest habitation, being left vacant on that account. Upon that place he erected a frame house, and devoted his energies to its cultivation and improvement for twelve years. He then purchased his present farm, where he has since made his home, and in connection with general farming he was for several years most successfully engaged in raising, feeding and dealing in stock, and as he shipped the same to the city markets, he thus saved all commissions. So well did he prosper in business that he is now the owner of several valuable and well-improved farms including his home farm of four hundred and two acres on sections 33 and 34, White Oak township; eighty acres in Dry Grove

township; two hundred and seventy-six acres in Hudson township; forty acres in Woodford county, Illinois; and three hundred and ten acres in Sac county, Iowa. This property has all been acquired through his own industry, enterprise and good management and the assistance of his faithful wife, and for his success he deserves great credit.

Politically, Mr. Denman was in early life an old line Whig, and since the dissolution of that party has affiliated with the Democracy. He has held several township offices of honor and trust, having served nine years as highway commissioner and school director for several years, the duties of which positions he most capably discharged.

JAMES W. HARWOOD, V. S., one of the most prominent veterinary surgeons of Bloomington, was born in Newark, New Jersey, September 6, 1863, a son of Andrew and Rachel (Atherton) Harwood. The father was a foundryman. Our subject acquired his literary education in the public schools of New York city, Newark and Patterson, New Jersey, and having always had a love for horses, he took up the study of veterinary surgery on coming to Bloomington in 1885, under the direction of Dr. Williams, the leading veterinary surgeon of McLean county. Later he attended McGill University at Montreal, where he further prepared himself for his chosen profession, and after that entered the Veterinary College of New York city, where he was graduated in 1888, after three years of study. Thus well fitted for what he had chosen as his life work, he returned to Bloomington and for a time was engaged in practice with Dr. Williams, but is now alone and has succeeded

in building up a large and constantly increasing practice. He occupies the old stand at the corner of Front and Prairie streets, where he occupies the finest hospital of the kind in central Illinois, or indeed in the state outside of Chicago, it being a brick block thirty-five by one hundred and twenty-five feet. He treats all kinds of diseases common to animals and has met with most excellent success. As a business man and citizen he is held in high regard, commanding the respect and esteem of all who know him.

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GEORGE W. WHEATLEY, one of the most popular engineers on the Chicago & Alton Railroad, and chief engineer of the Bloomington Division of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, was born in Wheeling, West Virginia, December 20, 1847, a son of William and Jane (Reed) Wheatley. The father, a miller by trade, was born in Washington, Pennsylvania, and reared in Virginia, and in 1856 came to Putnam county, Illinois, where he followed milling until his retirement from active business in 1868. He died in 1881, honored and respected by all who knew him. He was a member of the Presbyterian church, and served as school trustee in Putnam county for a time. The mother, who is still living at the age of eighty-four years, was born in Ohio county, West Virginia, and finds a pleasant home with our subject in Bloomington. The paternal grandfather, George Wheatley, spent his early life in Virginia, and from there removed to West Virginia. Either he or his father was a soldier of the Revolutionary war.

Mr. Wheatley, whose name introduces this sketch, was educated in the public schools of Hennepin, Illinois, and during

his youth partially learned the miller's trade. In 1868, at the age of twenty-one, he commenced his railroad career as a brakeman in the employ of the old Toledo, Wabash & Western Railroad, now the Wabash Railroad, on which he used the old hand-brake for one year. In the winter of 1869 he was with the Rockford, Rock Island & St. Louis Railroad, now the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, as engine wiper, at Beardstown, Illinois, where he obtained his first knowledge of engineering. Later he was fireman on the same road for two years, and worked in the shops at Beardstown for ten months to perfect himself in his knowledge of an engine. In 1872 he was promoted to engineer and given an old-style engine with no air brake. After spending four years as engineer on that road he removed to East St. Louis and entered the service of the St. Louis & Cairo Narrow Gauge Railroad, running both freight and passenger engines. Later he was in business for himself at Greenfield, Illinois, as a member of the firm of Wheatley & Piper, selling the McCormick reapers and binders throughout Greene county and meeting with most excellent success. At the end of four years the partnership was dissolved, and Mr. Wheatley returned to the service of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, with his home at Beardstown. He ran both freight and passenger engines for that road until February, 1888, and in 1889 he came to Bloomington and has since been with the Chicago & Alton Railroad as one of their most trusted and faithful employes. He has been in several accidents, and once had his fireman killed by his side, but he himself has never been injured.

On the 3d of October, 1867, Mr. Wheat-



ley was united in marriage with Miss Alice A. Kemp, of Camp Point, Adams county, Illinois. Her father, Thomas Kemp, a farmer by occupation, was born in Nelson county, Kentucky, and at an early day came to Adams county. He was one of the first settlers of Camp Point and erected the first hotel in the town, where he died about the time of the civil war. Our subject and his wife have two children: William T. married Olive Kane, of Beardstown, and was for a time a conductor on the Chicago & Alton Railroad, but is now general yardmaster at East Radford, Virginia; and Mabelle is the wife of Fred House, who is with the Illinois Central Railroad and lives in Clinton, Illinois.

Mr. Wheatley attends and supports the Congregational church, of which his wife is a member. Since 1873 he has been a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and for some time was chief executive officer of Beardstown Division, No. 127, and was representative to the grand lodge four times. He was instigator of a number of new laws for the society, and since coming to Bloomington has been a member of this division, of which he has been chief executive two terms. He is also past chancellor of the Knights of Pythias Lodge, to which he belongs. Mrs. Wheatley was one of the organizers of the grand lodge of the Grand International Auxiliary of Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers at Chicago in 1887, and one of its earliest members. She helped form the division lodge at Beardstown, and on coming to Bloomington was transferred to Victoria Division, No. 55, in which she has held many offices. She attended the grand international convention with our subject at St. Louis in 1898. The society is an insurance and

benevolent organization, and one of its objects is to promote sociability among the members. Mr. and Mrs. Wheatley are among the most prominent members of the order in Bloomington, and wherever known have the respect and esteem of all.

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HARVEY PARKHURST, M. D., of Danvers, Illinois, is one of the oldest practicing physicians in McLean county, having been in active practice here since 1853, a period of forty-six years, during which time the good that he has done is incalculable, and the close personal friendships formed by reason of such fact, is equal to that of any other one man in whatever calling engaged. He was born in Sharon, Vermont, February 20, 1823, and is the son of Elisha and Hannah (Huntington) Parkhurst, both of whom were natives of Connecticut. The Parkhurst family in America sprang from three brothers who emigrated from England in a very early day, and some of its members have occupied very prominent positions in the business and professional world.

The paternal grandfather of our subject was Dr. Phineas Parkhurst, who served as a surgeon during the Revolutionary war, and while professionally on board one of the privateers of his country was stricken with the yellow fever. He and his wife Lydia were the parents of three sons, Jared, Hhineas and Elisha. Our subject has in his possession a teaspoon that they had when they were married, and which is marked, L. P. P., (Lydia and Phineas Parkhurst.) Lydia Parkhurst lived to the age of ninety-seven years and died in Sharon, Vermont.

Elisha Parkhurst moved from Connecti-

cut to Vermont when quite young and there followed the occupation of a farmer. He married Hannah Huntington, and they became the parents of nine children, six of whom grew to maturity—Hiram, Hannah, Phineas, Sarah, Harvey and Araunah. Of this number our subject is now the only surviving one. Politically he was a Whig, and was a member of the Congregational church. Fraternally he was a Mason, and his son has a Masonic apron which he possessed that is now over one hundred years old. The doctor has been told by those who have seen it that it is almost a counterpart of the one owned by General Washington. The death of Elisha Parkhurst occurred in 1840. His wife survived him many years, dying when eighty-eight years old.

The subject of this sketch was seventeen years old when her father died. In the common schools of Sharon, Vermont, he obtained his primary education, after which he attended the Orange County Academy for a time, and then went to Massachusetts, where he taught school for three years. He then entered a school in Andover, Massachusetts, which he attended a little more than a year, after which he returned home and there remained some months. Leaving home, he went to Manchester, New Hampshire, where he studied medicine with Dr. Davis, and later with Dr. Jones, in the same office. He studied with them and attended lectures at Pittsfield, Massachusetts, Woodstock, Vermont, and at Buffalo, New York, for over three years. From the Buffalo Medical College he was graduated February 26, 1851, his diploma bearing the signature, among others, of Millard Fillmore, who was then President of the United States,

After receiving his diploma Dr. Parkhurst went to Michigan, where he commenced the practice of his profession. He remained there, meeting with fair success, until May 1, 1853, when he located in Danvers, where he has since continued to reside, and in his profession meeting with unqualified success. He has usually practiced alone, but about the beginning of the civil war he admitted to partnership Dr. Pierce, but the relation continued but a short time, Dr. Pierce entering the military service and going to the front with the army under Grant, died at Vicksburg. In 1877 the Doctor established a drug store, which he has since conducted in connection with his practice. He now does but little outside business, confining himself as far possible to his office practice.

On the 1st of January, 1853, Dr. Parkhurst was united in marriage with Miss Catherine Skillman, a native of New Jersey, their marriage being solemnized in Gull Corners, Michigan. By this union there were three children—Mary Frances, Julia and Kate—all of whom are now deceased.

In politics the Doctor is a Republican, but he has never cared for political honors, the demands of his profession requiring his undivided time. He is a member of the Congregational church, of which body his wife is also a member. Fraternally he is a Mason, holding his membership with Danvers Lodge, No. 742, A. F. & A. M. Professionally he is a member of the McLean County Medical Society, and was one of its organizers. He has always taken an active interest in the meetings of the society and in the discussion of the questions that properly come before it. He has always been a student, and deeply interested in the investigations and discoveries

made in the medical world. Socially he is highly esteemed, and his residence here of almost half a century, during which time he has professionally visited the homes of hundreds of the afflicted ones, has brought him into intimate associations with many, and all have a good word to say of the Doctor.

OWEN C. RUTLEDGE, of Heyworth, is now living a retired life in the enjoyment of a rest which he has truly earned and richly deserves by reason of his industrious efforts of former years. Accomplishment and progress ever imply labor, energy and diligence, and it was those qualities that enabled our subject to rise from the ranks of the many and stand among the successful few. He is now one of the highly respected citizens of Heyworth, and his long residence in McLean county and the active and important part he has taken in its business interests well entitle him to representation in its history.

A native of McLean county, Mr. Rutledge was born in Randolph township, October 19, 1831, and belongs to one of the oldest families of the state. His father, Thomas O. Rutledge, was born near Augusta, Georgia, in 1806, but during his childhood was taken to Kentucky by his father, Robert Rutledge, who spent the remainder of his life there. Amidst pioneer scenes, Thomas O. Rutledge was reared in Kentucky and was thus well fitted for his subsequent career as one of the original settlers of Illinois. In 1826, when a young man he came to this state and took up his residence in McLean county, when it still formed a part of Tazewell county. Here he was married in January, 1829, to a cousin, Miss Cynthia Rutledge, a daughter

of Thomas Rutledge, also an honored pioneer of McLean county, who died and was buried at Le Roy. The father of our subject took a claim of eighty acres in Randolph township, upon which he resided until 1831, when he sold that place to David Noble and took another claim of eighty acres one mile east, on section 35, where he opened up and developed a good farm, to which he added by subsequent purchase. In all he entered from the government two hundred and forty acres, and being a good business man, he became one of the prosperous and successful farmers and stock raisers of his community. He died at his home near Heyworth, in 1888, honored and respected by all who knew him. His wife had passed away some years previous, dying in 1880. To this worthy couple were born nine children, six sons and three daughters, who reached years of maturity, but two sons and one daughter are now deceased.

Owen C. Rutledge, our subject, received a good practical knowledge in the home school and Danvers Seminary, and for three years he successfully engaged in teaching school in early life. In 1855 he embarked in the grain business at Heyworth, in which line of trade he continued for a few years, and then, during the civil war, conducted a dry-goods store at that place in partnership with Major McFarland. On selling out, in 1865, he again engaged in buying and dealing in grain until 1891, during which time he built and conducted an elevator, and also dealt in lumber, coal and live stock, doing a large and prosperous business in these various lines. In 1891 he sold out and assisted in organizing the Heyworth State Bank, of which he was director and cashier until 1898, when he resigned on account of ill health. He is now living re-



tired, enjoying the fruits of his former toil. He is a man of keen discrimination and sound judgment, who has carried forward to successful completion whatever he has undertaken and the success that he has achieved in life is certainly justly merited.

Mr. Rutledge was first married, in 1858, to Miss Sarah A. Elder, who was born in Indiana, but was reared and educated in McLean county, and prior to her marriage engaged in teaching school. She died in the spring of 1865, leaving one daughter, Mary F., now the wife of Howard Gale, a railroad man living in Emporia, Kansas. In Defiance county, Ohio, Mr. Rutledge was again married, in December, 1866, his second union being with Miss Letitia A. Battershell, whom he brought as a bride to his home in this county. Of the three children born of this union, one died in infancy. Lettie B. grew to womanhood and was married in 1894 to Edward M. Wilson of Bloomington, where she died in July, 1895, leaving one son, Linden R. Wilson, who now makes his home with his grandfather Rutledge. Linden M. Rutledge, our subject's only son, is a business man of Chicago. The mother of these children died in February, 1898, and was laid to rest in Heyworth cemetery.

Politically, Mr. Rutledge has always been a Jeffersonian Democrat, and cast his first vote for Franklin Pierce in 1852, since which time he has never missed a presidential election, supporting Palmer and Buckner in 1896. He has served as a delegate to numerous conventions of his party, but has never sought office, preferring to give his undivided attention to his extensive business interests. However, he served as supervisor for three years and was a member of some important committees, has been school

treasurer twenty-one years, and township treasurer for a time. He has been an earnest and consistent member of the Presbyterian church of Heyworth for many years, and served as elder for fifteen years, resigning at the end of that time. Socially he is a Master Mason. During the long years he has been a resident of McLean county, he has championed every movement designed to promote the general welfare, has supported every enterprise for the public good, and has materially aided in the advancement of all social, educational and moral interests. After a useful and honorable career he can well afford to lay aside all business cares and live in ease and retirement.

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JOHN STAPLETON, L.L. B., a leading and prominent attorney of Bloomington, was born in Crawfordsville, Indiana, March 1, 1844, a son of John and Charlotte (Hendricks) Stapleton. The father was born in 1813, in Wheeling, West Virginia, where he was reared and educated, and when a young man went to Champaign county, Ohio, his parents having died when he was small. There he lived with his uncle, Robert Stapleton, a farmer near St. Paris. After he became of age, he removed to Crawfordsville, Indiana, where he married Charlotte Hendricks. Soon after that event, he settled on a farm near Crawfordsville, where his father-in-law's family were also living and where he continued to reside until 1852. He then came to Champaign county, Illinois, and located two miles west of Urbana, owning and operating land in what is now the northern part of the city of Champaign. This he entered from the government and erected thereon a residence. After a residence there of three years he



sold that place and bought land near Pontiac, Livingston county, where he lived about two years. His next farm was near Oconee, Shelby county, and there he died in 1857. He always took an active interest in school work, and most efficiently served as school director and school trustee. He was identified with the Democratic party until 1856 when he joined the Republican ranks and voted for John C. Fremont. Both he and his wife were earnest, consistent Christians and highly respected by all who knew them. She departed this life in 1863. She was born at Goshen, Ohio, August 4, 1817, eighteen miles from Cincinnati, and was a daughter of Joseph Hendricks, a pioneer settler of Ohio and an Indian fighter in his younger years. His father was a soldier in the Revolutionary war.

Our subject is the fifth in order of birth in a family of ten children, of whom four are still living, the others being Martha Jane, wife of William B. Prue, who lives near Oconee, Illinois; Joseph, one of the most prominent and influential citizens of Assumption, Illinois, where he is engaged in the lumber and grain business, and where he has served as president of the school board for a number of years; Nancy, deceased wife of Alfred Porter, of Plymouth, Iowa; and Wallace M., a resident of Poplar Bluff, Missouri.

In the common schools near his childhood home John Stapleton began his education, and in 1866-67 he attended the Wesley Academy, near Crawfordsville, Indiana. For three years he successfully engaged in teaching, the first year as a teacher in a country school, and as principal of the schools of Oconee, Illinois, for two years. He attended the State Normal University at Normal, Illinois, in 1870-71, after which

he returned to Oconee and engaged in merchandising until 1873, when elected county superintendent of schools for Shelby county, serving as such for four years. Having been a student in the Normal, he introduced many Normal methods into his work during those years. Prior to this the county had been accustomed to have a few days training for the teachers, but he introduced a summer normal of five weeks and made the work very thorough, employing professors from the Normal. In this way he very considerably raised the grade of teachers, and was the first superintendent in the county to grade the teachers and keep a record of their examinations and success for future reference, which custom has been adhered to by his successors.

At the close of his term Mr. Stapleton came to Bloomington in December, 1877, and locating at Normal, he entered the law department of the Wesleyan University, from which he was graduated in 1879, with the degree of LL.B. In the meantime he had been with Major W. Packard and remained in his office for one year. He has since successfully engaged in the general practice of law in Bloomington, and is one of the well-known and honored members of the bar. He is thoroughly versed in the law, is a man of deep research and careful investigation, and his skill and ability has won him a liberal clientage. Prominence at the bar comes through merit alone, and the high position which he has attained attests his superiority. For two years he was assistant editor and manager of a law journal, known as the *Weekly Jurist*, which was published in Bloomington and had a very general circulation throughout the state. It contained reports and many able articles.

On Thanksgiving day, 1872, Mr. Stapleton married Miss Mattie E. Shelton, a daughter of Gillum and Sarah C. (Leech) Shelton, of Normal, the former a native of Kentucky, the latter of Alabama. Her parents were married in Belleville, Illinois, where they then owned land, but later removed to Nashville, this state, where Mrs. Stapleton was born. Her father was a prominent man, especially in agricultural affairs, and for some time served as president of the agricultural society of Washington county, Illinois. In early days he was a raiser of fine horses. He removed to Normal, where Mrs. Stapleton was educated and continued to live until her marriage. Her father died in Saybrook, in October, 1898, but her mother is still living. To Mr. and Mrs. Stapleton were born three children, namely: Guy S., who met an untimely death by accident; Clyde I., who is now a student in the dental department of the Northwestern University at Chicago; and Bernice E., who is attending the high school of Bloomington. The family occupy an enviable position in social circles, and attend and support the Baptist church, of which Mrs. Stapleton is a member.

As a Democrat Mr. Stapleton has always taken an active and prominent part in local politics. For ten years he was chairman of the city central committee, but has never cared for the honors or emoluments of public office. He has often spoken in the interests of his party during campaigns, and has been a delegate to county, congressional and state conventions. In 1896 he did not endorse the platform of his party, made in Chicago, and became a member of the executive committee on the gold Democratic ticket. He was made a Mason at Oconee, in 1872, and is now a member of Normal

Lodge, F. & A. M. He is past chancellor of the Knights of Pythias and has represented that order in the grand lodge. In manner he is genial and courteous and his friends are in number as his acquaintances.

LOUIS MATERN comes from the Fatherland and the strongest and most creditable characteristics of the Teutonic race have been marked elements in his life and have enabled him to win success in the face of opposing circumstances. He possesses the energy and determination which mark the people of Germany and by the exercise of his powers has steadily progressed, and has not only won a handsome competence but has commanded universal respect by his straightforward business methods and has won a wide reputation in the scientific world by his articles on the chemical analysis of paints. He has been longer identified with the business interests of Bloomington than any of its citizens, and is still the leading carriage manufacturer and dealer of the city.

Mr. Matern was born in Giessen, Germany, March 13, 1826, a son of George and Janet (Sack) Matern. The father, who died when our subject was only two years old, was a tanner and well-known business man of that place. His ancestors who can be traced back to 1615 were all millwrights, well-to-do and educated men, and members of the Lutheran church. They all lived in the neighborhood of Giessen and were as follows: Conrad Matern, born in 1626; John Conrad, born in 1656; George Henry, born in 1700; George Philip, born in 1728; and John Henry, born in 1758; George, born in 1802.

In his native place, Louis Matern was

educated in the Realschule, which was equal to a gymnasium, or even more broad, and then learned the dyer's trade. In 1849 he emigrated to the United States and prior to coming to Bloomington in 1853, he worked in St. Louis. Finding no demand for dyers, he learned the painter's trade and the knowledge he had previously acquired of chemistry and colors made him one of the best posted men on the practical durability and chemistry of paints, and he has since written many able articles on this subject for leading German and American journals.

On his arrival in Bloomington Mr. Matern embarked in the carriage business at 306-8 West Front street, where he has since carried on operations. At first he occupied small wooden buildings and engaged in the manufacture of carriages and farm wagons until the big factories were started, since which time he has confined his business to first class custom work. By his industry, skill and integrity he was not long in building up a successful business, and it is a well known fact that the vehicles manufactured by him are the best that ever appeared in McLean county. Old ones sold at auction bring fifty per cent more than those of other makes. In 1869 he tore down his old shop and erected a brick building fifty by sixty feet, two stories in height, and once gave employment to fifteen hands, doing only custom work. His son is now interested in the business, and the firm name is L. Matern & Son. Our subject also owns a bicycle shop at No. 105 South Madison street, which is carried on by his son.

Mr. Matern has gained considerable prominence by his essays on linseed oil painting, and a renowned reputation in America, England, France and Germany

because he was the first who systematically classified the chemical action of paint pigment to linseed oil, thereby proving the durability of paints, hence the well known qualities of his vehicle paints. The Western Painter, published in Chicago January, 1896, said: "Mr. Louis Matern, who has spent his life at the painter's trade, learned his trade in Germany, and consequently learned it well. He has written a great deal for the Western Painter during the last four years, and we hope to see his name in our columns every month hereafter." He is a deep thinker, a logical reasoner, and his words always impress the reader with the fact that he knows what he is talking about.

Mr. Matern has twice been married, his first wife being Miss Martha A. Howe, a native of England, who died, leaving four children: Alice K., now the wife of Crayton Packard; William J., who is in business with his father; Minnie M., wife of S. Bowen, of Bloomington, and Milton, deceased. His present wife was in her maidenhood Miss Ann Paull, and is also a native of England. The family has a pleasant home at No. 311 West Grove street, and are widely and favorably known. Mr. and Mrs. Matern both hold membership in the Unitarian church, and socially he is a member of Bloomington Lodge of A. F. and A. M., No. 43.

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JAMES H. COX. There is probably no man in Hudson who has done more for its commercial interests and its growth and development than the gentleman whose name heads this review. Without vain display he has moved on the even tenor of his way and left his mark on almost everything which has advanced the interests of



the village. After years of active business, he is now practically living retired, enjoying the rest which he has so well earned and richly deserves.

Mr. Cox was born in Norway, Oxford county, Maine, April 21, 1822, and is a son of William and Elizabeth (Phipps) Cox, natives of Massachusetts and New Hampshire, respectively. At an early day the father removed with his parents from Old Plymouth to Chatham, New Hampshire, where he was married and continued to engage in farming for some time. He then removed to Norway, Maine, where he conducted a mercantile business until his death, which occurred about 1850, when he was seventy-two years of age. His wife survived him ten years and also died at the age of seventy-two. Of the fourteen children born to this worthy couple, the eldest died in infancy, and the youngest at the age of seven years, while the others reached years of maturity and were as follows: Abraham J., a prominent politician of Albany, New York; Thomas J., a merchant of Dixfield, Maine; William, Jr., who remained on the old home farm in Maine; Samuel, who came to McLean county, Illinois, in 1836, and after living for a time in Hudson township, removed to Bloomington, where he conducted a gristmill; George, a farmer of Hudson township; Edwin, who taught school for many years in Illinois and died in Fayette county; James H., our subject; Caroline, wife of Captain William E. Sweetsir, of Boston, Massachusetts, a sea captain who was engaged in the West India trade; Mary A., wife of Ammi P. Sweetsir, of Portland, Maine, a brother of the captain, who later came to Illinois and engaged in milling in Bloomington; Louisa, wife of Dr. Harris, of New Hampshire; Eva, who first married

Leonard Brown, of Maine, and after his death came to Illinois, where she married William Mathews, now one of the old citizens of Bloomington; Rowena, who married Claudius Noyes, of Boston, Massachusetts. With the exception of our subject and Mrs. Noyes, all are now deceased.

At his birthplace James H. Cox grew to manhood, his young youth spent upon the farm as he preferred out door life to the confinement of the store and his father had extensive landed possessions on each side of the village. Our subject obtained a good practical education in the village schools and soon after attaining his majority embarked in the mercantile business with his brother-in-law, Lenord Brown, at Welchville, Oxford county, Maine, where they conducted a store for two years or until the death of the latter. Mr. Cox then returned his stock of goods to Newry Corners, the same county—a little village at the juncture of the Androscoggin and Bear rivers, where he was engaged in business for three years. He then purchased a farm at Waterford, Maine and followed agricultural pursuits at that place for two years.

On selling out in the fall of 1831, Mr. Cox came to McLean county, Illinois, and spent the first winter at Bloomington in the employ of A. M. Mathews. In the spring of 1832 he concluded to engage in business at Hudson and accordingly started a general store at that place. He soon succeeded in building up a good trade, his patrons coming from twenty-five to fifty miles in every direction. For some years he gave his entire attention to that business and met with most excellent success. When his sons became old enough to take charge of the same, he retired and it is now carried on by them. For some time he was also interested in the



grain and drug business in company with his son Charles E. Cox, and his son-in-law, John W. Aldrich. He has been actively identified with the improvement and development of the town and has built two store buildings. His first residence here was burned in 1860 before being completed and upon the same site was erected his present home, which is one the best and most substantial in the village.

On the 6th of February, 1846, Mr. Cox was united in marriage with Miss Mary A. Chadbourn, a daughter of James and Mercy (Scribner) Chadbourn, natives of Maine. She was born in Harrison, that state, October 6, 1825, but during her childhood was taken to Waterford, Maine, where she was reared. Her father, who was known as Colonel Chadbourn, served with that rank in the state militia and throughout the greater part of his life followed farming through the summer months and engaged in logging during the winter in the pine timber lands of Maine, his native state. He was born in Gorham, January 23, 1795, and died in Waterford early in the '50s. His wife was born in 1800, and died October 26, 1873. Mr. Cox has been called upon the loss of his estimable wife who died December 22, 1891. To them were born five children as follows: Charles E., born September 25, 1848, was for several years connected with his father in business to Hudson, as a grain dealer, but now follows farming at Vandalia, Illinois; Flora, born June 5, 1850, is the wife of John W., Aldrich, president of the First National Bank of Normal, where they make their home; Nettie C., born December 6, 1856, is the wife of Rev. Francis M. Smith, now pastor of the Baptist church at Marion, Iowa; and Harry W. and Herbert M., twins, born

July 17, 1861, conducted the store formerly owned by their father until the spring of 1899, when they dissolved partnership and are now alone in business.

In his political views, Mr. Cox has always been a stanch Republican and was the first supervisor of Hudson township, in which capacity he most acceptably served for several terms. Soon after embarking in business at Hudson, he was appointed postmaster and held that office until the election of President Cleveland. He has also taken an active part in educational affairs and for many years was a most efficient member of the school board. He is an active and prominent member of the Baptist church of Hudson, which he assisted in organizing, in which he has served as deacon for forty years, and also as superintendent of the Sunday school for many years. He is deeply interested, as he always has been, in public affairs and the good of his community where he has so long resided, and it is safe to say that no man in the community is held in higher regard or has more warm friends than James H. Cox.

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GEORGE J. FOSTER. There are no rules for building characters; there is no rule for achieving success. The man who can rise from the ranks to a position of eminence, is he who can see and utilize the opportunities that surround his path. The essential conditions of human life are ever the same, the surroundings of individuals differ but slightly; and when one man passes another on the highway to reach the goal of prosperity before others who perhaps started out before him, it is because he has the power to use advantages which probably encompass the whole human race. To-day

among the business men of Normal stands Mr. Foster, who is the senior member of the Phoenix Nursery Company and its efficient secretary. He is a man worthy of his position, whose name and influence are widely known and felt, and represents one of the oldest industries of its kind in the state. It was established by Franklin K. Phoenix, at Bloomington, Illinois, in 1852, first on a small scale, but by ability and good management it increased in interest and extent. In 1877, Mr. Phoenix discontinued the business, and was succeeded by Tuttle & Follett, who continued until 1882, when the business again changed hands, and for a time was known as Sydney Tuttle & Co. In 1885 a new company was formed by the following members: W. E. Rossney, Sydney Tuttle and George J. Foster. This company was incorporated in 1890, and was known as the Phoenix Nursery Company, with the following officers, namely: W. E. Rossney, president; Sydney Tuttle, vice-president; and George J. Foster, secretary.

These nurseries cover over six hundred acres of valuable land, most of which is given over to the raising of fruits and ornamental trees. Among the latter are almost every variety of the American forest. There are fifty acres devoted to the cultivation of small fruits, and twenty acres to hardy roses. In the thirteen greenhouses, which cover a large area, are raised native and tropical plants, also cut flowers throughout the entire year. From the Phoenix nurseries shipments are made to all parts of the United States, Australia, Canada, Ireland, Germany, South Africa and South America. Mr. Foster is one of the main springs in this great wheel of industry. He was born in Rhode Island, January 2, 1846, where he received his early training

and rudimentary education. He has always followed agricultural pursuits, having had since his early days a decided liking for this line of business, no doubt seeing in the bud, leaf and plant, the creative powers of God. In 1864 Mr. Foster left his native state and went to Flushing, Long Island, where he entered the employ of Parsons & Company, under whose instructions he became conversant in all the departments of the nursery business. He remained in Flushing for four years, after which time he removed to Bloomington and entered the employ of Franklin K. Phoenix. He has remained in the establishment through all its various changes, having entered it in 1868.

In 1870 Mr. Foster married Miss Lydia B. Browning, a daughter of Perry N. Browning. Six children have graced this union, five of whom are living; Frederick B., deceased; Alma B., George K., Bernice L., Esther B., and John B. Mr. and Mrs. Foster are prominent in Grace Methodist Episcopal church, of Bloomington, where the former is an active and official member. Politically he is a Republican who staunchly upholds the principles of his party.

CHARLES M. PEIRCE, L.L. B., is one of the most popular and successful lawyers now engaged in practice in Bloomington. It is said that the poet is born, not made; but the successful lawyer is both born and made,—made by close application, earnest effort, by perseverance and resolute purpose. The abilities with which nature has endowed him must be strengthened and developed by use, and only by merit can a lawyer gain a pre-eminent position.

Mr. Peirce was born November 8, 1860,

in New Market, Tennessee, twenty-five miles east of Knoxville, and is a son of John B. and Mary M. (Bell) Peirce, both natives of Virginia, the former born in Smyth county, the latter in Wythe county. The paternal grandfather, Moses Peirce, spent his entire life in Symth county, Virginia, and was a soldier of the war of 1812, under General Jackson. He was twice married, and the father of our subject was a son by the second wife. John B. Peirce was born February 14, 1832, and was reared in the Old Dominion, where he continued to reside until after his marriage, removing from there to East Tennessee. He engaged in blacksmithing and wagonmaking until the civil war broke out, when he entered the Union service as captain of a company. In attempting to cross the line and go north he was among the first to be captured during that struggle. For three or four months he was incarcerated in a Georgia prison, and was then discharged on parole. With his family he then came north, arriving in Bloomington in the fall of 1863. He was compelled to leave all his accumulation of years behind him and here begin life anew and empty-handed. After spending a short time in Bloomington, he went to Danvers, where he worked at his trade one year, and thirty-one years ago he moved to what is Anchor township, McLean county, where he purchased a tract of unimproved prairie land, to the development and cultivation of which he has since devoted his energies. He and his wife are still living upon that place and are numbered among the highly-respected citizens of that community. They have a family of eight children living and two sons and one daughter, deceased. William B., who died at the age of twenty-four years and six months, was township super-

visor and school treasurer of Anchor township from the time of attaining his majority until his death. Charles M., our subject, is next in order of birth; John F. is a farmer of Auburn, Nebraska; Glenn is a farmer of this county; Ed is an attorney of Bloomington; Eugene died in early manhood, in January, 1888; Harry and Nettie are at home; Kate is the wife of James T. Aker, of McLean county; and Ella O. is the wife of H. J. Thompson, of Arrowsmith, this county.

The only school privileges afforded our subject before he attained the age of twenty-one were those of the common district schools, and in the meantime he assisted his father in the operation of the home farm. Feeling the need of a better education, he entered the Illinois Wesleyan University at Bloomington, taking the literary course, and later he successfully engaged in teaching school through the winter months, while the summer seasons were devoted to farm work for three years. In 1884 he graduated from the Commercial College at Lexington, Kentucky, and also pursued a select course of study in the Transylvania College there. The following two years were devoted to the study of law in the Northern College of Law at Valparaiso, Indiana, where he was graduated in June, 1888, with the degree of LL. B. He was then admitted to practice in the United States circuit and district courts and the supreme court of the state of Indiana, and afterward admitted by examination to practice in the state of Illinois. He still has in his possession a letter dated September 4, 1888, which reads as follows: "Dear Sir— In answer to yours of the 3rd, will say that the result of your examination was that \* \* \* you passed and your grade was one hundred per cent. Allow me to con-



gratulate you on your splendid examination. I wish you big success, etc." signed John W. Burton, clerk of the supreme court. Mr. Peirce at once located in Bloomington, but on account of ill health was compelled to spend one year in the mountains. On his recovery he resumed practice here in the fall of 1889 and was not long in securing a liberal clientage. He has had charge of many of the important cases, including four murders. For some time he practiced principally in the criminal courts, but of more recent years has given his attention more to civil practice and has been eminently successful in both branches.

On the 8th of June, 1898, Mr. Peirce was united in marriage with Miss Ella Bane, of Arrowsmith, a daughter of Samuel T. Bane, and they now occupy a beautiful home at No. 614 East Mulberry street, Bloomington. Fraternally, Mr. Peirce is a member of Bloomington Lodge, No. 43, F. & A. M.; and Jesse Fell Lodge, No. 164, K. P. He has met with success financially as well as professionally, and is one of the charter members and stockholders of the Corn Belt Bank. In 1892 he canvassed the county, engaged in speaking and other campaign work, in favor of the Republican party, but being a bimetalist, he supported Bryan in 1896, and made a great number of speeches in the interests of Democracy. He has never been an aspirant for office, although his name has been brought before the convention of his party as candidate for state attorney. Holding marked precdence among the members of the bar of this county, and retaining a clientele of so representative a character as to alone stand in evidence of his professional ability and personal popularity, Mr. Peirce must assuredly be accorded a place in this volume.

HERBERT A. POTTS, D. D. S., one of the prominent and rising young dentists of Bloomington, was born in Whitehall, Illinois, February 15, 1873, a son of William and Mary (Stewart) Potts. The father is one of the leading and successful farmers and live stock dealers of that locality, and is also a veteran of the civil war, having served for three years as a member of the Sixty-first Volunteer Infantry, of which regiment he was quartermaster, with the rank of lieutenant. Our subject's paternal grandfather, Anthony Potts, was a pioneer of Greene county, Illinois, having located there at a very early day in the settlement of the state.

Reared on a farm, Dr. Potts acquired his early education in the country schools, and by assisting his father in the cultivation of the land he developed a good physique. Later he graduated from the Whitehall high school in the class of 1891, and then entered the dental department of the Northwestern University of Chicago, where he took the complete course, including practical work in the operating room. During his last year he served as assistant to Professor George W. Haskins, who held the chair of prosthetic technics, and performed the duties of that position in addition to his regular work. Thus he became an instructor to many of the students, and as only the best pupils are selected for such a responsible position, it was a great honor that was conferred upon him. Dr. Potts graduated in the spring of 1895, and in October of the same year opened an office in Bloomington. Although he was entirely unacquainted in the city, his skill and ability soon won him the liberal practice which he now enjoys. His office is fitted up with all modern appliances needed by the profession,



and he is acknowledged to be one of the best dentists in the city. He is a prominent member of the State Dental Society, before which he gave a clinic on a special line of work at its last meeting. Socially he is a member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge at Whitehall, and he attends the Second Presbyterian church of Bloomington.

GEORGE A. ROSS, who, after the labors of a long and busy life, is spending his later years in ease and retirement in the village of Heyworth, is a native of New York, his birth having occurred in Schenectady county, April 19, 1828. His father, John B. Ross, was born in New Jersey, and was a son of Captain Ross, a native of Scotland, who came to America when a young man, and was one of the early settlers of New Jersey. He was commissioned a captain in the Colonial army during the Revolutionary war, and valiantly fought for the independence of his adopted country. The father of our subject was reared in his native state, but when a young man removed to New York and first located in Schenectady county, where he worked at his trade of blacksmithing. There he married Eliza Stewart, who was born in New York of Scotch ancestry, and died in 1830 during the infancy of our subject. The father afterward married again. From Schenectady he removed to Saratoga county, New York, and later to Niagara county, and was engaged in business as a blacksmith for many years at Middleport, where he died in 1883, at the ripe old age of eighty-four years.

George A. Ross, of this review, who is familiarly known as Colonel Ross, grew to

manhood in Niagara county, New York, and in early life assisted his father in the shop. He received but limited school advantages, and therefore is almost wholly self-educated by reading and study in his mature years. Coming west in the fall of 1852 he first located at Decatur, Illinois, where he was employed in railroad construction through the winter, and the following spring returned to New York, where he spent a few weeks. On again coming to Illinois he located in McLean county and entered the service of the Illinois Central Railroad, having charge of two sections and two sets of men.

In the fall of 1853 Colonel Ross again returned to New York to claim his promised bride, and on the 27th of November of that year led to the marriage altar Miss Eleanor Jackson, who was born in Genesee county, but reared in Orleans county, that state. Her parents, Charles and Julia (Fillo) Jackson, were also natives of Genesee county, and the father was a carpenter by trade. Immediately after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Ross came to McLean county, Illinois, and began their domestic life in Heyworth, which thriving little village was then but a hamlet containing two log houses. Renting a dwelling they commenced housekeeping in very primitive style.

At that time Colonel Ross had charge of the Illinois Central Railroad track between Heyworth and Wapella and was overseer of two sets of workmen. After following railroading until 1856, he then rented land and turned his attention to farming. In the fall of 1861 he made his first purchase of land, consisting of a tract of one hundred and seventy acres, at Funks Grove, a part of which had already been broken and a small one-story house erected thereon. Lo-

cating there in February, 1862, he devoted his energies to the improvement and cultivation of his place for many years. He fenced and tiled it, built a good barn, granary, corn cribs, etc., and in 1866 erected a pleasant residence. In addition to general farming he engaged in feeding and dealing in stock, for which he had good water from wells with windmills attached. To his original purchase he added eighty-one acres adjoining, making a fine farm of two hundred and fifty acres, which he converted into one of the best improved places of Funks Grove township. He also owns eighty acres of good land in Downs township, and has some timber tracts, all of which property was acquired through his own untiring labors, good management and perseverance, the assistance of his estimable wife, who has indeed proved a true helpmeet to him. Though they began their married life empty-handed, through their united efforts they have accumulated considerable property, including two valuable and well improved farms and an elegant home in Heyworth, which is one of the best residences in town, and was erected by them on their removal to that place in 1888. Since then they have lived retired. Although they have no children of their own, out of the kindness of their hearts they have reared and educated three boys, who are now grown, two of whom are married and doing for themselves.

Colonel Ross cast his first presidential vote for General Scott, the Whig candidate, but has been identified with the Republican party since its organization in 1856, and has never failed to cast his ballot for its nominees at each presidential election. He has served as a delegate to several county, congressional and state conventions of his party

and has attended three national conventions. He had the pleasure of seeing three of the greatest men that our country has produced—Lincoln, Blaine and Garfield. He has always taken an active interest in political affairs, and has been elected to various local positions of honor and trust, both in Funks Grove and Heyworth, the duties of which he most capably and satisfactorily discharged. For many years he was one of the most active and enterprising farmers of the county, as well as one of its most reliable and honorable citizens, and now in his declining years is enjoying a well-earned rest, free from the cares and responsibilities of business life. Throughout the community he is widely and favorably known.

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JACOB MEETH, SR., is a leading representative of the business interests of Bloomington, where he has successfully carried on operations as a brick and stone contractor for over a quarter of a century. Of excellent business ability and broad resources, he has attained a prominent place among the substantial men of the city. He has won success by his well-directed, energetic efforts, and the prosperity that has come to him is certainly well deserved.

A native of Germany, Mr. Meeth was born in Frankfort-on-the-Main, May 30, 1849, a son of Adam and Katherina (Jacobs) Meeth. The father was born and reared in Dieburg, Hessen, and there learned the mason's trade. Later he bought his right to citizenship in Frankfort-on-the-Main and there worked at his trade as foreman for a gentleman until his death. The mother died at the same place. Our subject was educated in the schools of Frankfort, and at



JACOB MEETH.

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the age of thirteen years commenced learning the mason's trade with the firm for which his father worked. He remained with them for three years, but completed his apprenticeship with others, in which way he gained a better knowledge of the different methods pursued by different persons in the same business.

Crossing the Atlantic in 1854, Mr. Meeth first located in St. Louis, Missouri, where he worked for three years. There he was married in 1871 to Miss Minnie Buchholtz, also a native of Germany, who came to New York when she was six years old and to Bloomington before she was twelve. Her father, Michael Buchholtz, was one of the first Germans to locate in the latter city, taking up his residence here in 1861. He was a shoemaker by trade and worked at the same in Bloomington until called from this life in 1879. Mr. and Mrs. Meeth have three children: Lucy, now the wife of Patrick Cunningham, of Bloomington; Minnie, at home; and Jacob, Jr., who learned his trade with his father and now works for him.

For one year after his marriage, Mr. Meeth made his home in Chicago, but since the 3d of July, 1872, he has resided in Bloomington, where he at once embarked in business for himself as a brick and stone contractor. He has been very successful and secured many of the largest contracts in the city. He erected the tower of Holy Trinity church and convent; Smith's Chop House, one of the principal early buildings of the city; the Kechler building; the Waits Hotel; the Brown & Bush building in Normal; an addition to the brewery; the Wildburger building on North Main street; the McGregor building and many others; and was superintendent of the construction of

the Harber Brothers agricultural implement building and of the building for the training department of the Normal University. He has also done a great deal of stone work, including the Jewish synagog of Bloomington, and many of the township bridges even as far as Pekin and Peoria, and gives employment to a large force of men.

Mr. Meeth has purchased a fine piece of property one hundred and ninety-two feet by one hundred fifteen feet at the corner of Lincoln and Wright streets, and has built thereon a fine residence. In this beautiful home hospitality reigns supreme, for the family is one of prominence socially. In politics, Mr. Meeth is a stanch Democrat, and though he has served as school director, he has never cared for political honors, preferring to give his undivided attention to his business interests.

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PETER H. VANCE, now living a retired life in his pleasant home in the village of Danvers, is a pioneer of Woodford county, Illinois, although when he first located there with his father it was a part of McLean county, the family homestead being within six miles of Danvers. He was born in Todd county, Kentucky, April 20, 1816, and is the son of James and Jane (Hay) Vance, both of whom were natives of the same state. They were the parents of four children, of whom our subject was third in order of birth. About 1821 the family moved to Christian county, Kentucky, where they remained until 1835, when they came to Illinois, locating in what was then McLean county, but which was later set off and became a part of Woodford county, but which is on the line of Danvers township.

James Vance was a farmer by occupation both in Kentucky and in Illinois. On coming to this state he took up one hundred and sixty acres of government land and began its improvement. He was quite successful in all his undertakings and at the time of his death had several hundred acres of land. His first wife dying, he later married her sister, Mary Hay, who also died many years ago. He was a man of strong character, the right sort of a person to be a pioneer. His influence was felt in the community where he resided and all trusted and respected him.

The subject of this sketch was nineteen years old when he came with his parents to Illinois. After assisting his father in opening up the home place, he went to the lead mines in Galena, where he spent about three years and succeeded in laying by some money. He made his father's house his home until his marriage in 1845. He married Miss Louisa A. Mitchell, a native of Illinois, and daughter of Rev. Peyton Mitchell, one of the pioneer ministers of the gospel of this state, and a brother of Mitchell, the great astronomer. By this union eleven children were born, one of whom died in infancy. James died at the age of twelve years. Elizabeth married James Robinson, but is now deceased. Mr. Robinson makes his home in Bloomington. Ella May married H. W. McClure, now deceased, leaving five children. Mary and Peyton are deceased. Minnie is her father's housekeeper. Charles E. and Judson are in the banking business in Danvers, and are men of good business ability. Charity married L. E. Skagg, and they reside in Danvers township. Cora resides at home with her father.

Soon after returning from the lead

mines, Mr. Vance purchased a tract of land adjoining that of his father, comprising eight hundred and forty acres, which he in due time placed under cultivation. As his means increased he added to his possessions until he had one thousand acres in Woodford and McLean counties, Illinois, and five hundred acres in Franklin county, Iowa. While he engaged in mixed farming, he gave special attention to the raising of stock, particularly fine horses, roadsters and draft, and has had upon his place some forty or fifty head of choice animals. In mules, hogs and cattle he also had generally a large number of head, and was very successful in this branch of his business.

In 1882 Mr. Vance moved with his family to the village of Danvers, and in 1883, in connection with his two sons, of whom mention has been made, he founded the bank at Danvers, giving the active management into the hands of the sons. In this enterprise they have met with success, the bank being conducted upon a conservative, yet withal liberal manner, affording accommodations to the business men and farmers of the surrounding country. The proprietors are popular men, and deserve the confidence reposed in them by their patrons.

Mr. Vance is a member of the Baptist church at Danvers, and was one of its constituent members when organized in 1838, and is to-day the only surviving member of the original organization. He has always taken an active part in the church work, and for forty years was superintendent of the Sunday-school. For many years he served as deacon of the church, an office which he was particularly well qualified to fill, both by nature and inclination. Mrs. Vance, whose death occurred March 10,

1892, was also a member of that body. She was a true Christian woman, a loving wife and affectionate mother, and her death was a sad loss to the happy household, and her many friends in McLean and Woodford counties. She was, however, prepared to go when the summons came, for she knew in whom she believed, and died the death of the righteous one.

In early life Mr. Vance was an advocate of Whig principles. Coming from the state of Henry Clay, and knowing the man as he did, he could not help but have an admiration for the man, who, although willing to accept the high honor, would yet "rather be right than president." He continued to advocate the principles of the Whig party as long as it was in existence. He then allied himself with the newly organized Republican party, with which he has since continued to act and vote. While residing in Woodford county he held various local offices, serving as county treasurer one term. For twenty-four years he filled the office of justice of the peace in a most satisfactory manner, and was also treasurer of his school district for several years. In whatever position he was called on to fill, he discharged its duties in a thorough and conscientious manner. All who knew him reposed in him the utmost confidence, and that confidence, which was never betrayed, is still retained. Coming to this state in his young manhood, he has here spent sixty-four years, and as he recalls the years that have passed, he can scarcely realize the great changes that time has wrought. At the time of his arrival, and for some years afterward, there was not a mile of railroad in the state, while now it is covered by a perfect network of iron rails; telegraphs and telephones were unknown; the reaper and the mower had

not formed themselves in the mind of man, much less had a practical existence; steam printing presses, capable of turning out their thousands of well printed papers per hour, were not even dreamed of. All these he has lived to see, and in the great work of transformation he has borne his part and done what he could..

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GEORGE H. McCOMB, a worthy and honored citizen of Heyworth, was for some years actively identified with the agricultural and industrial interests of McLean county, but has now retired from active labor to spend his remaining years in the pleasurable enjoyment of his accumulations. He was born in Indiana county, Pennsylvania, July 16, 1822, and is a representative of an old and distinguished family of that state. His grandfather, General James McComb, a native of Ireland, came to the new world when a young man of eighteen years and located in Indiana county, Pennsylvania, being one of its earliest settlers. In his time he was one of the most prominent men of the state, was a leading member of the Pennsylvania legislature for several years, and served with distinction as a general in the Continental army during the Revolutionary war. He continued his residence in Indiana county throughout life, and was recognized as one of its most influential farmers and business men.

James McComb, Jr., the father of our subject, was born and reared in Indiana county, Pennsylvania, and there married Miss Jane Laughlin, a native of the same place and a daughter of Randall Laughlin, who was born in Ireland and was an early settler of Pennsylvania. Both the McComb and Laughlin families were of Scotch-Irish



descent. The father of our subject spent his entire life in his native county, engaged in agricultural pursuits, dying there in 1865, when over eighty years of age. His wife had passed away several years previous. He served as county commissioner, and held other public positions of honor and trust.

In the county of his nativity, George H. McComb grew to manhood with limited school advantages, and is mostly self-educated. In Armstrong county, Pennsylvania, March 10, 1847, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. McComb and Miss Caroline Irwin, who was born, reared and educated there. Her parents, Benjamin and Margaret (Marshall) Irwin, were born natives of the Keystone state, and of Scotch-Irish extraction. The father, who was a soldier of the war of 1812, was born near Philadelphia and spent the greater part of his life as a farmer in Armstrong county.

Mr. and Mrs. McComb began their domestic life in the village of Covode, Indiana county, where he engaged in business as a blacksmith for twenty years. In March, 1865, at the president's last call for troops to aid in putting down the rebellion, he enlisted in Company B, Sixty-seventh Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, which was assigned to the Sixth Corps, Army of the Potomac, and was kept on guard duty in Virginia and near Washington, D. C., until discharged in the fall of 1865, at Philadelphia. Returning to his home Mr. McComb resumed work at his trade in Covode, where he remained for three years. In 1869 he came to McLean county, Illinois, joining his brother, John L. McComb, who had located here three years before. Our subject settled in Downs township, where he built a shop, and in connection with work

at his trade he engaged in farming upon rented land for several years. He then purchased eighty acres of his present farm in Randolph township, adjoining eighty acres he had previously purchased, but has since given the latter tract to his sons, James B. and Thomas R. For some years he continued to engaged in farming and blacksmithing upon his place, but since 1890 has lived retired in the village of Heyworth, where he bought residence property.

Mr. and Mrs. McComb have a family of six children, namely: Corydon Irwin, a farmer of Downs township; Mary Alice, wife of H. F. Bishop, of Bloomington; Emily V., wife of W. L. Van Horn, in Downs township; James B., a farmer living near LeRoy; Thomas R., an agriculturist of Downs township; and Anna B., who is well educated and has been a successful teacher in the Heyworth school for some years. They have also lost three children: Elmer Elsworth, who died at the age of eight years; William George, who died at the age of six; and Caroline Jane, at the age of three.

Our subject and his wife began their married life in limited circumstances, but through their combined efforts, they have succeeded in securing a comfortable home and competence, which now enables them in their declining years to lay aside active labor and enjoy a well-earned rest. For over fifty years they have traveled life's journey together, sharing its joys and sorrows, its adversity and prosperity, and on the 10th of March, 1897, celebrated their golden wedding, on which occasion there were gathered together their children, grandchildren and several friends to offer their congratulations and best wishes. They were the recipients of a number of beauti-



ful and useful presents, and all had a most enjoyable time. Mr. and Mrs. McComb both hold membership in the Presbyterian church of Heyworth, and their upright and honorable lives have gained for them the friendship and high regard of all with whom they have come in contact. Mr. McComb cast his first vote for Henry Clay, and continued to support the Whig party until the organization of the Republican party, when he joined its ranks, voting for John C. Fremont, in 1856, and has since been one of its staunch adherents. He has never cared, however, for the honors or emoluments of public office.

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FRED W. ONGLEY, assistant fuel agent of the Chicago & Alton Railroad, with headquarters in Bloomington, is the fourth oldest employe in the service of that road, having been connected with it since 1865. He was born in Dover, England, December 2, 1838, and is the son of Edward and Sarah (Smith) Ongley, the former born in county Kent, England, and the latter in the city of London. She was the daughter of William Smith, a wealthy citizen of London, who left her an independent life income. She was reared in luxury, as is evidenced by the fact that our subject has now in his possession, in a state of good preservation, fine china cups and saucers bought by her in Bologne, France, the day the battle of Waterloo was fought. He has also many other interesting relics of her father's family, some of which are over one hundred years old.

Edward Ongley was brought up a gentleman in his native country, and was politically a Tory. He came to the United States in the winter of 1838-39 with his wife and

family of seven children and located in Onondaga county, New York, where he made a home and spent the remainder of his life. He was a man highly respected and well known in Syracuse, New York. On coming to this country he espoused the doctrines and principles of the Whig party, voting for its last presidential nominee, General Winfield Scott, in 1852. Religiously, he was an Episcopalian, being reared and dying in that faith. His death occurred in March, 1853, while his wife survived him, being called to her reward in 1864. Of their family of seven children, three are yet living. Edward S. is a manufacturer of boots and shoes in Worcester, Massachusetts. Caroline is the widow of George Ristben and is now residing in California.

The subject of this sketch, who is the remaining living child of Edward and Sarah Ongley, came to the United States with his parents an infant of but about three months old, and in the schools of Onondaga and Syracuse, New York, obtained his education. He remained with his parents until 1854, when he came west to Chicago, and entered the employ of the Illinois Central Railroad in their shops, learning the machinist trade. After serving an apprenticeship, he went on the road as an engineer from Chicago to Champaign. In the years that have since passed, he has been actively engaged, and has practically seen all the improvements of the country, including Chicago, a city which did not give promise of the vast proportions it has since attained. While still residing in that city, on the 4th of May, 1860, he was united in marriage with Miss Catherine Kennedy, a native of Scotland, whose family was numbered among the early settlers of Chicago, her

father being a retired heavy stock man. By this union five children were born. Elizabeth was educated in Wesleyan University, and is now a teacher in the public schools of Bloomington. Fred is with the Inter-State Mining Company of Missouri. He married Mrs. Mary Walton, of Higby, Missouri. Chester is in Montana with the Northern Pacific Railroad. Charles for a number of years has been train dispatcher at Bloomington of the Chicago & Alton Railroad. Benjamin is in the foreign export department of Swift & Co., Chicago.

Leaving the Illinois Central Railroad, Mr. Ongley was for a time in the employ of the Chicago & Northwestern Railway, and during the civil war was in the employ of the general government, as a locomotive engineer, in Tennessee and Alabama. During that time he was in very many dangerous places and lived on the same rations as was dealt out to enlisted men. After the close of the war, he again came north, and in June, 1865, entered the employ of the Chicago & Alton Railroad at Bloomington, as an engineer. He continued in that line for twenty years, all of which time, with the exception of two years, being in the passenger service. In all that period he never had an accident, although running through trains. In 1884 he was appointed assistant agent in the fuel department of the road, having charge of everything pertaining to the purchase and use of fuel for the road. The road uses over two hundred thousand tons of coal per year, and one of his duties is to secure bids for this immense purchase. That his work is satisfactory is attested by his long continuance in this branch of the service.

Mr. Ongley is the owner of a beautiful home on East Chestnut street, where he

lives with his family, and where it is his delight to entertain his many friends. Fraternally he is a member of the National Union of Locomotive Engineers. With his good wife, he holds membership with Grace Methodist Episcopal church. Politically he is a Republican, though not a partisan.

ELI KIRK CROTHERS, M. D., now deceased, was for years one of the most prominent physicians in Bloomington, one whose reputation was not confined alone to the city of his adoption, but his ability was recognized throughout the length and breadth of the land. He was born in Mt Pleasant, Ohio, October 29, 1826, and when ten years of age came with his parents to Illinois, his father making a home in Fulton county, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits. In the schools of his native state, and in those of Fulton county, our subject attained his literary education. At the age of nineteen he entered the office of a physician in Vermont, Illinois, and read medicine, taking his first lectures at McDowell Medical College, St. Louis, Missouri, and his last course at Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from which he received his degree. After engaging in practice a few years, he returned to Jefferson Medical College and took a post graduate course. Later he took a special course in the treatment of the eye and ear, in which he made a specialty during the last years of his life.

In 1850 Dr. Crothers located in Bloomington for the practice of his profession, and in a short time, by reason of his superior skill as a physician, built up a large and lucrative practice, doing all that it was pos-

sible for one man to do, keeping two teams and a driver and working them all down. He visited professionally all the neighboring towns, and was often called into consultation with other physicians. He was active in the discharge of his duties, attending to calls in and out of the city, as long as health would permit. When, in justice to himself, he could no longer attend to outside work, he engaged in office practice, giving special attention to the treatment of the eye and ear.

Dr. Crothers was one of the charter members of the McLean County Medical Society, and was its second president. He took an active part in its proceedings for some years, contributing some very valuable papers. He was a very close student in his profession, and his colleagues considered him authority. Dr. Byford, of Chicago, pronounced him one among the best diagnosticians of whom he had any knowledge, and Professor Gross, of Philadelphia, said about the same thing of him. He had a fine library, and made the best use of his books. Financially, he became well-to-do, owning at one time the largest drug store in Bloomington. He built three business blocks in the city, two on the south side of the square and one on Front street, all good business blocks to-day, and creditable to the city.

On the 1st of May, 1851, Dr. Crothers was united in marriage with Miss Marie Louise Depew, of Bloomington, daughter of Elijah Depew, originally from Virginia, of the same family, but several removes, from the noted Chauncey Depew. The family are of English ancestry. Miss Depew came with her father to Bloomington in 1840. In Indianapolis he was engaged in the dry-goods trade, in which line he continued after his removal to Bloomington. He be-

came one of the leading business men of the city, and had an extensive acquaintance throughout the state. He was never an aspirant for office, but was an earnest worker in the Whig ranks. On the organization of the Republican party, he gave his adherence to that party, and, in fact, was one of its organizers. He was well versed in history, and David Davis made the statement that he never found him in error. Later he removed to the south part of the state, where his death occurred. While Mr. Lincoln was in the white house, he sent Mr. Depew many public documents addressed in his own handwriting.

To Dr. and Mrs. Crothers four children were born, all of whom have received good educations. Noble E. is now a resident of Paxton, Illinois. Louise M. is a graduate of pharmacy. Eli K., Jr., is engaged in business in Bloomington. Rachel is a well known elocutionist.

After her marriage, Mrs. Crothers became interested in her husband's work, and studied with him for some time, and finally became his assistant. In 1877-8 she took a course in the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, and in 1880-81 a course in the Woman's Medical College, of Chicago, and also a special course in gynecology at the Rush Medical College, of Chicago, the privilege for which was secured through the influence of Prof. W. H. Byford and other friends. Returning to Philadelphia, in 1882-3, she received her degree of Doctor of Medicine. For some years she had a large general practice, and also in gynecology. She was the first successful female physician in Bloomington, and met with a good deal of opposition, even from the profession, they not taking very kindly to the idea of women entering the profession.



She kept on her way, however, and in time made even her opponents her warm friends. Of late she has confined herself to office practice. Her colleagues in the profession in Bloomington and McLean county acknowledge her ability, and esteem her highly for her work's sake. She is a member of the Christian church.

Without his knowledge or solicitation, Dr. Crothers was appointed by President Lincoln, medical examiner of soldiers during the civil war, and held the office until it became too burdensome, and practically without pay. He examined the soldiers, who, on account of wounds or disease, were home on furlough, and extended the furloughs when he thought it was necessary for the soldier's good. It made for him an immense lot of work, his district extending over a considerable portion of central Illinois. Lincoln knew him personally, having been his attorney in the only suit the Doctor ever had.

From early life, Dr. Crothers was a member of the Christain church, and for many years was an elder in his local church. He took an active interest in every department of church work, and was a strong believer in the inspiration of the Bible. His death occurred in April, 1893, and he was sincerely mourned by the family which he loved so well, the church to which he was devoted, his professional brethren, and the citizens generally, among whom nearly forty-three years of his life was spent.

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MRS. GEORGE BRADNER is a representative of the oldest and two of the most prominent pioneer families of Bloomington, her first husband being William H. Allin, a son of James Allin, who in 1828

entered the land from the government where the city now stands. He was a native of Virginia, born January 13, 1788, and before coming to this state lived for a time in Indiana, where he married Miss Catherine Livingston, who was born October 23, 1801. He located at Vandalia, Illinois, when it was a mere trading post and there engaged in business until his removal to Bloomington. With an ox team he moved his small stock of goods to this place, while his wife came on horseback. Selecting a location at what is now the corner of Grove and East streets, he erected, in 1828, a two-room log cabin which is still standing although it is now covered on both the outside and inside. One room was used for a store, the other for a living room, and it was there that the first business in Bloomington was conducted, but the white settlers in this locality were then very scarce and it became rather an Indian trading post. In the living room the first session of court in Bloomington was held and as Mrs. Allin was sick in bed at the time she was obliged to be present, it being the first and only time she was ever in court. The first religious services were also held there by a circuit rider of the Methodist Episcopal church. On coming to this county in 1828, Mr. Allin entered about a section of land, but the same year he desired to enter more, and finding that another gentleman wished to secure the same tract and was watching his movements, he drew up the papers and sent his son William H., then a lad of ten years, on horseback to Springfield to enter the same. The boy started off in the opposite direction until out of sight and then proceeded direct to Springfield, crossing the wild prairies and fording unbridged creeks. The sun was his guide. He was not much



missed but on coming out of the land office after making his entry he met the man who had gone there for the same purpose. He finally reached home in safety after a journey of sixty miles.

James Allin laid out Bloomington into streets and town lots, the city limits being Grove street on the south, and East, West and North streets, respectively. It was only four blocks square and comprised what is now the very heart of the city. The central block he gave to the county on condition that this be made the county seat, which was eventually done. That his shrewd business judgment was far in advance of the time, is shown by the fact that he gave alternate lots to any responsible man of character who would build on and improve the same. In this way Bloomington was started and grew more rapidly than the other cities around. He laid out a number of early additions, all in the northwest part of town. In his little log store he conducted the first post office, but as his trade increased, he enlarged his store and business facilities, his goods being brought up the Illinois river to Pekin and then across the country by teams. In later years his time was principally devoted to the real-estate business, entering new lands and laying out additions to the city. On the Whig ticket he was elected to the state legislature in 1838, and as a public-spirited and enterprising citizen, he always took an active interest in public affairs. His home was a stopping place with Lincoln when a young man, and it was Mr. Allin that first predicted that he would one day be president of the United States. In his later years he was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, with which his wife was always connected. He died May 5, 1869, and she passed away March 2, 1872,

honored and respected by all who knew them. In their family were three sons, all now deceased, and one daughter, Mrs. Dr. Hoover, a resident of Chicago. William H., the eldest son, is mentioned below; James died in Kansas City, Missouri; and John, in Wilmington, Illinois.

William H. Allin was born April 25, 1818, in Indiana, and therefore was only ten years old when brought by his parents to Bloomington. As there were no schools in this region at that time, he was almost wholly self-educated by reading and study in later years. As a boy he assisted his father in the store, and when the latter failed by going security for others, he took the store and successfully conducted it. He was one of the three men who laid out the new addition to the city cemetery, the others being Judge David Davis and James Robinson. One fine lot was reserved with the understanding that the first of the three to die was to be buried there, and it fell to the lot of Mr. Allin, as he passed away Monday, July 27, 1857. He was successfully engaged in mercantile business for nineteen years, and became the owner of considerable land in different parts of the county. He also owned the block in the city bounded by Jefferson, Madison, Monroe and West streets, on which he located in 1845. His widow still owns and occupies the old homestead there, but has sold the half which was the garden, it being now occupied by the jail. He had the respect and esteem of all who knew him on account of the honorable, straightforward business policy he ever followed. Integrity, activity and energy were the crowning points of his success, and his connection with various enterprises was of decided advantage to this section of the state, pro-

moting its material welfare in no uncertain manner. He liberally assisted in the building of the Normal School and also the Wesleyan University, and when the railroad was started gave the right of way through a number of his farms. He served for two terms or eight years, as county clerk of McLean county, and in politics he was first a Whig and later a Republican. He was present at the organization of the Republican party in the Majors building, and was one of its active supporters from its inception.

On the 20th of November, 1838, William H. Allin was united in marriage with Miss Judith Ann Major, and to them were born five children, of whom four reached years of maturity, namely: Susan, now deceased, was the wife of James Walker, of Peoria; Edward is mentioned below; Caroline is the wife of Walter Rogers, of this county; and William H. is now a resident of Maud, Kentucky. Edward Allin was born in Bloomington, May 6, 1842, and began his education in the city schools. In 1858-9 he attended Jubilee College, Peoria county, and later took a commercial course at Eastman's Business College, Poughkeepsie, New York, after which he returned to Bloomington. In 1864, he went to Kinderhook, New York, where he married Miss Mary E. Thomas, whose father's farm adjoined that of Martin Van Buren. After spending thirteen years in the east, Mr. Allin returned to his native city, where he is now living retired from business cares on account of ill health. He has two children: Caroline; and Robert T., of Peoria, who married Mary Griller and has one child, Carrie Allin.

Mrs. Bradner, formerly Mrs. William H. Allin, is still living and is a bright, active old lady, loved and respected by all who

know her. She was born near Paris, Kentucky, May 9, 1814. Her parents, William P. and Margaret A. (Ship) Major, were both natives of Bourbon county, that state, the former born March 1, 1790, the latter August 1, 1792, and they were married in 1812. After farming there for some years, he freed such of his slaves as could be self-supporting and got masters for others, and then removed to Christian county, Kentucky, where he lived from 1818 to 1835. He had been much opposed to slavery for many years, and in 1835, he finally came to Illinois, locating one mile north of the court house in Bloomington. He was quite well-to-do, and here he erected what was then the finest house in the country, it being two stories in height, with wings on each side, a porch in front and built almost entirely of black walnut. He entered large tracts of land all around his first purchase, which was made of Mr. Allin, and became the owner of more than a thousand acres on the east and west sides of Main street. He was a prominent stock raiser, making a specialty of Durham cattle, and also had from fifteen hundred to two thousand sheep.

In his own home Mr. Allin organized the first Christian church in the county, with eleven members, and gave the lot and furnished most of the money for the erection of a house of worship for the congregation. When there was no preacher available, he took charge of the church services, but he lived to see a large and prosperous church established in Bloomington, in which has been placed a memorial window to him. His daughter, Mrs. Bradner, is now the only one of the original members living. His home, church and business claimed his entire attention; he was a devoted Christian, and in all the relations of life was an

upright and honorable man. Of his ten children, nine lived to be grown and five are still living: Judith Ann, now Mrs. Bradner; Labon S., a physician of Chicago; John A., a physician of Spokane Falls, Washington; Ann M., now Mrs. Jones, of Springfield, Illinois, whose husband is an ex-judge and was the first officer appointed by President Lincoln as circuit clerk of the southern district of Illinois; and James, a resident of Denver, Colorado.

In October, 1876, Mrs. Allin married George Bradner, who was born in Dansville, New York, and educated in Rome, that state. About 1840 he came to Illinois, and, with Governor Mattison, was engaged in business at Joliet for some time as a manufacturer and dealer in wool. He was also interested in the hardware trade and was a prominent and successful business man. He came to Bloomington at about the time the first railroad was built here, and continued his interest in the same lines of business until his retirement in 1876. He was one of the leading business men of this city and was held in high esteem by his associates and friends. He died December 31, 1896, when almost eighty-five years of age.

**J**OHNS. POPPLE, the well-known editor and proprietor of the Danvers Dispatch, and dealer in hardware, Danvers, Illinois, was born in Boston, England, January, 24, 1843, and when a lad of ten years started for America with his parents, arriving here in August, 1851, the family locating first in Oswego, New York. His father, Rev. Samuel Popple, was a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church, and died at Watertown, New York, in 1855. In the

schools of Oswego and Watertown, New York, our subject obtained a good English education. In 1858 he came west and located in Bloomington, Illinois, where he has since continued to reside, a period of thirty-nine years.

On locating in Danvers, Mr. Popple engaged in the milling business, in which he continued until 1870. Being possessed of more than ordinary musical talent, and desirous of perfecting himself in this art, he went to Chicago and placed himself under the instructions of Prof. H. R. Palmer, and for five years he devoted himself to the study of music. He then became a teacher of the same, which he followed with success for five years. In 1875, in connection with his brother Luther, he established the hardware store of Popple Bros., buying out the stock of William Estes, of Danvers. Later his brother sold his interest to John A. Ewins, and the firm became Popple & Ewins. On the death of the latter, Mr. Popple purchased his interest of the heirs, and is now sole proprietor.

On the 4th of June, 1865, Mr. Popple was united in marriage with Miss Jennie E. Franks, a native of Danvers, and by this union four children were born—Edwin G., Mabel W., Ethel F. and Park W.

Soon after the establishment of the Bloomington Leader, Mr. Popple became its Danvers correspondent, and continued to act as such until April 3, 1880. He made a model correspondent, the Leader frequently calling attention to his communications in the highest terms of praise, and asking that other correspondents should at least copy his style in brevity and terseness. His manuscript was always well written, clear and distinct as copper plate, and was the delight of the composing



room. Upon severing his connection with the Leader, Mr. Popple, in company with John P. Yoder, established the Danvers Dispatch, its first number bearing date April 1, 1880. After two years Prof. Yoder withdrew, since which time Mr. Popple has been sole proprietor and editor of the paper. The Dispatch soon won its way into popular favor, and it is said to have the largest circulation of any paper published in McLean county, outside of Bloomington. Mr. Popple is a concise and interesting writer, and exhibits more than ordinary ability as a journalist and business manager.

It would seem that the editorial and business management of his newspaper and the active management of his hardware store would be as much as Mr. Popple could well attend to, but there is no enterprise of benefit to Danvers and vicinity but finds in him an active friend, one who will in some way find time to render some assistance. For twenty-two years he has been secretary of the Rock Creek Fair Association, and for the same length of time has been secretary of the Danvers Mutual Fire Insurance Company. To each of these institutions he has given much time and thought, and the success attending them in a great measure is due to him.

Fraternally Mr. Popple is a charter member of Danvers Lodge, No. 742, A. F. & A. M., in which lodge he has held the office of secretary for many years. For twenty-five years he has been secretary of the Danvers Township Sunday-school Association, and in Sunday-school work he has always taken an active interest, officiating as organist in the Baptist and Presbyterian Sunday-schools. In fact, there is no good work in the community in which he lives that does

not receive his hearty co-operation. While reared in the Methodist Episcopal faith, he does not allow denominational lines to prevent his rendering whatever assistance he can for the moral welfare of the community. Honored and esteemed by all who know him, he possesses that genial disposition which is careful not to wound a friend and avoids making an enemy.

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JOHN M. BLOUGH is a well-known and prominent citizen of Hudson township, where he is most creditably and satisfactorily serving as justice of the peace. He also owns and operates a fine farm of eighty acres, which is the west half of the northeast quarter of section 10, and in his undertakings is meeting with a well-deserved success.

Mr. Blough was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, December 28, 1865, a son of William and Mary M. (Forney) Blough, also natives of the Keystone state, where they continued to make their home until coming to McLean county, Illinois, in February, 1866. In Hudson township the father purchased land and now owns and occupies the east half of the southeast-quarter of section 15. Throughout his active business life he has engaged in general farming and stock raising and due success has not been denied him. The Democratic party finds in him an ardent supporter of its principles, and he has taken an active part in educational affairs, serving for several terms as school director of his district. He has also been prominently identified with church work as a member of the Dunkard church and has filled the office of deacon for many years. Of his nine children, four died in childhood in Pennsylvania and one



daughter after coming to this state. Those still living are John M., our subject; Ida L., at home with her parents; Urias, a farmer of Hudson township, who married Delia M., daughter of Hiram Johnson, of Gridley township; and Noah, who resides on the home farm and assists his father in its operation. On both sides our subject is of German descent, but for several generations his ancestors have resided either in Pennsylvania or Virginia.

During his boyhood and youth John M. Blough became thoroughly familiar with the duties which fall to the lot of the agriculturist, and he aided in the operation of the home farm until his marriage. It was on the 16th of February, 1887, that he led to the marriage altar Miss Addie A. Johnson, daughter of Hiram O. and Elbertine (Capron) Johnson. Her father was a native of New York, but was married in Wisconsin, from which state he came to Illinois in 1866, locating first in Hudson and later in Gridley township, McLean county, where he purchased sixty acres of land, on which his widow still resides. He died there in February, 1893, honored and respected by all who knew him. In political sentiment he was a Democrat. He had a family of six children, five of whom are still living, namely: Hattie V., wife of F. R. Porter, of Hudson; Addie A., wife of our subject; Arthur F., a farmer of Panola township, Woodford county, Illinois; Delia M., wife of Urias Blough, brother of our subject; and Nina J., who lives with her mother in Gridley township. Our subject and his wife have an interesting little family of three sons: Adren W., Arthur O. and Paul M.

After his marriage, Mr. Blough located upon his present farm, which up to that time had been owned by his father, and

there he has since successfully carried on operations as a general farmer and stock-raiser. He has made many improvements upon the place, including the erection of a good barn in 1892, and has enlarged and remodeled the residence, so that he now has one of the neatest and best-kept places in the community. Politically he follows in the footsteps of his father, supporting the men and measures of the Democratic party by his ballot. In the spring of 1897 he was elected justice of the peace, and was one of the youngest ever elected to that office in the county, being at that time only thirty-one years of age. The duties of the office, however, he has since most capably discharged, winning the commendation of the public. His wife is a member of the Dunkard church, and both are held in high regard by all who know them.

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LUAN W. CAPEN, deceased, was for many years one of the leading and prominent business men of Bloomington and one of its honored and highly esteemed citizens. He was born in Skaneateles, New York, September 13, 1807, and traced his ancestry back to Bernard Capen, a native of Dorchester, England, and one of the Winthrop colony who came to the new world in 1630 and founded Dorchester, Massachusetts, now part of Boston. All of his ancestors were born in the old Bay state. His father, John Capen, went with what is known as the Massachusetts colony to Vermont, where he married Miss Rhoda Thompson. On account of a change in the state line the colony lost much of its land and Mr. John Capen removed to Skaneateles, New York, and four years later to Warsaw, that state. He was a farmer and

millers by occupation, and was blind for sixty-two years. Remaining on the home farm until he attained his majority, our subject was educated in the schools of Skaneateles, and began his business career as a clerk in a country store at Seneca Falls, New York. Later for thirty-five years he successfully engaged in general merchandising at Union Springs, on Cayuga lake, being in partnership with his brother-in-law, Laban Hoskins, under the firm name of Hoskins & Capen.

Disposing of his interests in the east in 1855, Mr. Capen came to McLean county, Illinois, and purchased a farm one mile east of Bloomington, where the fair grounds are now located. The following spring he and his family located thereon and for one year he gave his attention to agricultural pursuits, but at the end of that time he traded his farm for city property and removed to Bloomington, taking up his residence on South Center street. Later he removed to East Grove street, where he made his home for a quarter of a century.

On his removal to the city, Mr. Capen formed a partnership with his son Henry, and embarked in the crockery, glass and china business,—theirs being the first store of the kind in Bloomington. The only building they could procure at that time was a little carpenter shop on the east side of the square, and as it was simply boarded up, they suffered much from the cold that first winter, but in the spring were able to rent a better building on the south side of the square. They soon built up a large and profitable trade and opened a branch store at Decatur, in 1860, of which the son had charge for eight years. At the end of that time they sold out their Decatur business, and about two years later sold the Bloom-

ington business and purchased almost a half interest in the Phoenix Savings, Loan & Trust Company Bank, of which our subject became cashier and his son assistant cashier. For seven years they were connected with that institution, and after selling their interests Mr. Capen retired from business.

He was twice married, first March 17, 1831, to Miss Sybil Hoskins, who was born December 29, 1802, a daughter of John Hoskins. She died February 27, 1842, leaving two children, Henry and Mary E.; the latter died young. Mr. Capen was again married, February 20, 1844, his second union being with Miss Eliza Munger, who that day was twenty-five years of age, her birth having occurred in Auburn, New York, February 20, 1819. Her father was Asa Munger, a clock-maker, who was the first man in the United States to manufacture clocks by prison labor. The children born of the second marriage were Charles L., who is represented elsewhere in this volume; Harriet E., wife of Joseph Townsend; Mrs. Lillian C. Howard, a widow living in Bloomington; James S., a resident of Detroit, Michigan; and Jerome E., a resident of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. The mother of these children departed this life August 20, 1897, and Mr. Capen passed away December 24, 1883.

Mr. Capen was an enterprising and progressive citizen who took a deep interest in public affairs and did all in his power to promote the general welfare. He laid out an addition of eighty acres to the town of Normal, and in that venture met with excellent success. During the civil war he took a very active and prominent part in the sanitary commission, and was appointed by the county board of supervisors to take charge of collecting and disbursing the

funds for the relief of sick soldiers and soldiers' families, his store being headquarters. In this way he was brought in touch with many people and distributed forty thousand dollars, no bond being required of him. He was one of the early abolitionists and his home became a station on the underground railroad. His son, Charles L., well remembers going into the kitchen one night and finding three negroes there. A wagon was obtained in which these men were taken to the next "conductor," a Quaker living near Lake Ontario. Mr. Capen affiliated with the Republican party from its organization until his death, but never cared for political preferment. He was one of the first members of the Second Presbyterian church of Bloomington, with which he united only six months after its organization, and in which he served as elder, trustee and for many years treasurer. He was one of its most prominent and active members; was a member of the building committee on the erection of the church; and later he and another gentleman gave their notes to keep it from being sold for mortgage. Truly such a life is worth having been lived, and such lives deserve permanent record on the pages of their country's history, that others, seeing their good works, may follow in their footsteps.

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JOHN R. HAYDEN, foreman of the tin and copper department of the Chicago & Alton Railroad shops, and one of the most energetic and enterprising citizens of Bloomington, was born in Clear Spring, Washington county, Maryland, December 27, 1839, a son of William and Harriet (Spickler) Hayden. The father was born in Westminster, Carroll county, Maryland,

and was the son of Richard Hayden, born February 8, 1789, in Westminster, Carroll county, Maryland. He was one of a family of ten children, the others being John, born January 22, 1777; Eleanora, March 18, 1779; William, August 22, 1781; Bazel, July 16, 1784; Anna, May 18, 1786; Dennis, July 28, 1791; Ambrose, October 19, 1793; James, October 26, 1795; and Catherine, May 27, 1798. He belonged to one of its most prominent and honored families, of which Judge Hayden, of Carroll county, son of Bazel Hayden, was also a member. He was also a tin and coppersmith by trade, and carried on business along that line at Cumberland, Maryland, where he located in 1843, when it was the terminus of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. As the place grew, his business also increased, and at his death he was one of the leading merchants of the place. He was also one of the prominent and influential men of the city, and served as captain of a company of militia. His widow, Harriet, who survived him many years, was born in Adams county, Pennsylvania, in June, 1820, and was of German extraction; was the daughter of Adam and Harriet (Beecher) Spickler, and there were four children, as follows: Catherine, John, George and Harriet. To them were born five sons, of whom our subject is the eldest, but only two are now living, our subject and William. After his death, the mother carried on the business for two years, and then married her head clerk, Mr. McLaughlin, of Cumberland, Maryland, who had charge of the store until he died, when she sold the business. By him she had four children, two of whom are deceased. The living are Margaret and Mary, who reside in Cumberland, Maryland. She died in October, 1898. She was a most esti-



mable lady, who in early life was a Lutheran, but later joined the Catholic church, to which the father of our subject belonged.

John R. Hayden, of this review, commenced his education in private schools and later attended the Brothers Academy at Cumberland. He then learned the tin and coppersmith's trade with his stepfather, and completed his apprenticeship before his mother sold out the business. In 1857 he came to Amboy, Illinois, and found employment in the tin and copper department of the Illinois Central Railroad, with which he was connected until 1864. During that year he entered the Chicago & Alton shops at Bloomington, but ten years later returned to the Illinois Central Railroad at Amboy, where he served as foreman of the tin and copper department for five years. Since 1879, however, he has filled a similar position with the Chicago & Alton Railroad at Bloomington, and has the entire confidence and respect of the company.

On the 5th of April, 1864, Mr. Hayden was united in marriage with Miss Sarah A. Wells, who was born near Peterboro, Canada, a daughter of William Wells. In 1853 her father removed to Chicago and four years later to Amboy, Illinois. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Hayden are as follows: George, who died at the age of eighteen years; John, who is now in the railway mail service; Harriet, who is the wife of Edward B. Finck, of Philadelphia, and has one daughter, Sarah; Robert, a resident of Duluth, Minnesota, who married Millie Wells and has one son, Harry; Frank, who died at the age of seven years; Harry, a resident of Bloomington; Mary and William, who are both attending school in Philadelphia. The family hold membership in Holy Trinity Catholic church and

are widely and favorably known. They have a fine home at No. 308 West Union street, where hospitality reigns supreme.

Socially, Mr. Hayden is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, the National Union, and the Catholic Order of Foresters. He takes an active and prominent part in local politics, and has served as chairman of the Democratic committee for his precinct and ward for many years. During his residence in Amboy, for three years he was a member of the board of education, and has always taken considerable interest in educational affairs.

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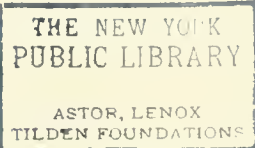
ALEXANDER HALSEY, residing on section 12, Funk's Grove township, where he owns and operates a farm of one hundred and sixty acres of valuable land, comes of an old pioneer family that settled in this county in 1837. He was born in Randolph township, November 5, 1842, and is the son of Eli and Nancy (Scott) Halsey, the former a native of West Virginia, born in 1815, and the latter of Tennessee. Eli Halsey, however, was twice married, first in Virginia, and with that wife he came to DeWitt county, in 1837, but later removed into Funk's Grove township and purchased the farm where our subject now resides. His wife dying here, he later married Nancy Scott. He died at his late home in Wapella township, DeWitt county, January 19, 1892, at the age of seventy-six years. His wife survives him and is yet living on the old home farm, an active old lady of seventy-eight years.

The subject of this sketch was reared on the old farm and educated in the home school. He remained with his parents and assisted his father in the cultivation of the





ALEXANDER HALSEY AND WIFE.



farm until his marriage, October 8, 1864, to Miss Mary Jane Davis, who was born in Switzerland county, Indiana, and daughter of James L. Davis, a native of the same county and state, who after his marriage removed to DeWitt county, Illinois. By this union were born ten children, of whom seven are now living: John C., of Heyworth; Minnie, at home; Arthur, married and farming in DeWitt county; Arda H., who died January 16, 1899, at the age of twenty-six years; Robert Oscar, married and farming in DeWitt county; Martin Luther, who died in 1892, when fourteen years old; Owen A., Olive Etta and Anna Jane at home; one died in infancy.

After marriage Mr. Halsey located on a farm in DeWitt county, Illinois, where he continued to reside until 1880, when he sold out and moved to Davis county, Missouri, and located near Ballatin, where he rented a farm for two years, and then purchased a farm of two hundred acres, on which he lived for two years. Realizing that Illinois was yet the best state in which to live, he sold his Missouri farm, and in the spring of 1884 returned to Illinois and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Funk's Grove township, and on that farm he resided four years, when he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of his present farm, to which he has since added forty acres. Since moving to the place, in 1888, he has built a large and substantial residence and good barn, and has made a number of improvements of a substantial character. In addition to the home place he owns a good farm in DeWitt county, which is occupied by his son, Arthur Halsey. He confines himself to no special thing, but engages in general farming and stock-raising, feeding annually

about two car-loads of cattle and quite a number of hogs. He is the owner of two steam threshers and a corn sheller, and during the season engages in threshing and shelling, thereby realizing quite a handsome sum each year.

Politically, Mr. Halsey is a Democrat, in the principles of which party he is a thorough believer. His first presidential vote was cast in 1864 for George B. McClellan, and his last in 1896 for William J. Bryan. He has no inclination for public office, but has served several years on the school board, and has been clerk of his school district. He is well known in the southern part of McLean and the northern part of DeWitt counties as a man of exemplary habits and worthy of the esteem of all.

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CHARLES I. CAPEN is one of the attorneys of Bloomington and is making a specialty of corporation law.

Mr. Capen was born in Union Springs, Cayuga county, New York, January 31, 1848, and is a son of Luman W. and Eliza (Munger) Capen, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume. [See that article].

In 1856, Mr. Capen accompanied his parents on their removal to McLean county, and after living on a farm for about a year, they located in Bloomington. In the public schools of this city he acquired his early education, and in 1865 was a member of the first class to graduate from the high school department of the Illinois Normal. He then entered Harvard College, where he was granted the degrees of A. B. and A. M., and was graduated in 1869, taking special honors in philosophy and political economy. Subsequently he studied law in

Bloomington, and was admitted to the bar in 1871, since which time he has engaged in general practice. His present office is in the Gresheim building. Of recent years he has given special attention to corporation law.

On the 27th of October, 1875, Mr. Capen was united in marriage with Miss Ella E. Briggs, a daughter of Robert W. Briggs, formerly of Tazewell county, Illinois. They have two children: Charlotte B., who graduated from the Illinois Normal in 1894 and from the University of Chicago in 1898, receiving the degree of Ph. B.; and Bernard C., who is sixteen years of age and is now attending the Bloomington high school. The family have a pleasant home at 710 North East street, and attend the Second Presbyterian church.

In 1893, Mr. Capen was appointed by Governor Altgeld as a member of the state board of education, was re-appointed by Governor Tanner, and is still holding that position, being virtually a trustee of the Normal School. He is also one of the instructors of the Wesleyan Law School.

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**I**SAAC MESSER. Illinois owes its high standing among the sovereign commonwealths that make up the United States to the high character and dauntless spirit of the settlers who made their homes within her borders in pioneer days. To their inspiration and work is due her wonderful progress in agriculture, manufacturing and the arts. They have opened the mines, transformed the wild land into fertile farms, and established churches and schools in savage wilds, laying the foundation for the grand institutions of philanthropy and learning which are the glory of the state at the

present day. Among these honored pioneers the Messer family is deserving of prominent mention, as its representatives have been actively identified with the upbuilding and development of McLean county for the long period of seventy years.

Isaac Messer, now a leading agriculturist of Hudson township, was born in this county December 28, 1831, one mile east of the present town of Lexington, and is a son of Isaac and Sidney (Forbes) Messer, both natives of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and about the same age. The family was founded in America by three brothers who came from Ireland, one settling in Pennsylvania, the second in Connecticut and the third in Virginia. The first of these was Samuel Messer, the grandfather of our subject, a shoemaker by trade, who died when Isaac was a small boy. The father's birth occurred in 1782. From Pennsylvania they removed to Pickaway county, Ohio, in 1811, and on leaving there in 1828 came to Illinois. For six months they were residents of Sangamon county, but in the spring of 1829 took up their residence in what was then called Mackinaw, but is now Lexington township, McLean county, where the father took a squatter's claim. He sold that place in March, 1834, to a Mr. Black, of Kentucky, and removed to section 3, Hudson township, where our subject now resides. He received a government patent to this land, signed by President Jackson, which has been transferred to our subject, and is now in the possession of the latter. The father acquired three hundred and twenty acres of land on sections 2 and 3, Hudson township, about one hundred acres of which was timber land, but the remainder he improved and placed under cultivation, being successfully engaged in general farm-



ing and stock raising. He was a great hunter and an excellent marksman, often killing as many as four deer in one day.

Politically, he was a Jacksonian Democrat, and religiously, an earnest and faithful member of the United Brethren church. He was a local preacher and organized a number of the first churches of that denomination in this and Livingston counties. During his active life he devoted much time to ministerial work and refused all political honors, considering them unreconcilable with his religious life and duties. He died at his home in Hudson township, January 21, 1861, honored and respected by all who knew him. His worthy wife had passed away May 8, 1843, and the remains of both were interred in the family burying ground.

Of the ten children born to them, one died in infancy in Ohio; another in McLean county, in 1835, at the age of eight years; and though the others reached years of maturity, all are now deceased with the exception of our subject. John B. spent his life on a farm in Gridley township, where he died November 10, 1879; Mary, wife of Joseph Gilderstein, one of the Hudson colonists, who is also deceased; Elizabeth, who married Peter R. Sparrow and died in Neosha county, Kansas, in 1895; Jane, who married Isaac Turnipseed, a farmer on section 2, Hudson township, and died in April, 1896; Sidney A., who married Madison Young, of Money Creek township and died March 30, 1850; Rebecca, who married Calvin Dougherty, a Hudson colonist, and died June 21, 1844; Joseph, who lived on section 3, Hudson township, a part of his father's estate, and died April 13, 1898; and Isaac, our subject, who is the youngest of those who reached maturity.

Amid pioneer scenes Isaac Messer grew to

manhood and he was educated in the common schools of Hudson township. He inherited some of his father's hunting instinct and in early life was very handy with a rifle. He also had ample opportunity of indulging in that sport, as he has seen as many as one hundred deer in one day, besides great flocks of wild turkeys, prairie chickens, etc. The latter were too numerous to notice, having seen rail fences lined with them for one mile. It was in 1868 that he killed the last flock of wild turkeys, sixteen in number, in Money Creek township. After his marriage, at the age of twenty-four years, he took charge of the home farm, his father remaining with him, however, until his death. His entire life has been devoted to farming and stock-raising. He has an excellent farm of two hundred acres, which is stocked with fine Norman and Percheron horses. He kept principally short-horn cattle until 1893, when he founded a herd of red polled cattle, of which he now has thirty-five.

On the 13th of July, 1854, Mr. Messer married Miss Nancy E. Lock, who was born in Anderson county, Kentucky, March 24, 1836. Her parents, Robert and Mary (Holman) Lock, were also natives of that state, and came to McLean county, Illinois, in 1852, locating in Hudson township one year, thence to Gridley township, three miles from the village of that time. They had thirteen children, six sons and seven daughters, only three of whom are now living: Nancy E., wife of our subject; Reuben, a resident of Hudson township; and James L., of Buckley, Iroquois county, Illinois. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Messer, namely: William H., born July 13, 1856, has charge of the grain elevator at Cappa, Illinois. (2) Elizabeth J., born

April 2, 1858, married Daniel Ogden, of Money Creek township and has four children: Bertha, Susan, Bessie and Glenn. (3) Mary I., deceased wife of Thomas Patton, of Gridley township, and (4) Margaret I., at home, were twins, born December 18, 1862. (5) Fannie, born April 13, 1869, married Jackson Hinthorn, of Hudson township, and has five children: Elva, Leah, Floyd and Lloyd (twins), and Murrell J. (6) Nora E., born January 13, 1879, is at home with her parents.

Mr. Messer's political support is always given the Democracy, but he has never cared for the honors or emoluments of public office, preferring to give his entire time and attention to his farm, which he still operates with the assistance of hired help. Outside of school offices the only public position he has filled was that of constable, in 1858 and 1859, at which time there were many forced closures, entailing such hardships on one of the parties interested that he became disgusted with the office and would not serve another term. He has always taken an active and commendable interest in educational affairs, and for twenty-one years most capably served as school director. His name is a synonym for honorable business dealing; he is always mentioned as one of the invaluable citizens of the community, and on the rolls of McLean county's honored pioneers his name should be among the foremost.

**G**EORGE PORTER ELA, deceased, was one of Bloomington's honored and highly-respected citizens and was for forty years prominently identified with the growth and upbuilding of this county. He was born in Lisbon, New Hampshire, July 13,

1832, a son of Cyrus and Elizabeth (Ela) Ela, who were descendants of one of the oldest and most widely-known families of that state. He traced his ancestry back through Cyrus, Jacob, Jacob, Jacob and John to Israel Ela, of Haverhill, Massachusetts, who took the freeman's oath in 1677. Our subject's paternal grandmother was a Hough and of good old Revolutionary stock. Mr. Ela was the third in order of birth in a family of seven sons, of whom two died in early manhood; two were killed in the civil war; and two are still living in New Hampshire.

Mr. Ela was reared on his father's farm in New Hampshire, and his early education, acquired in the district school of the neighborhood, was supplemented by a course in Drury Academy at Exeter, that state, where he took up the study of surveying and civil engineering. He taught school in the vicinity of his birthplace and remained there until the spring of 1857, when he came to McLean county, Illinois. After teaching for one year in Hudson, he came to Bloomington in May, 1858, and as a surveyor and civil engineer, he opened an office at the southwest corner of Main and Front streets. Having located here at an early day, he did most of the surveying of this section, laying out most of the city of Bloomington, and in 1865-66 resurveying most of the open prairie in the different townships of the county, which had not been surveyed since first laid out. With the exception of seven towns, he laid out every town in the county, and to Lexington, Chenoa, Saybrook, Danvers, McLean, Le Roy and Hudson, he made additions much larger than the original sites. For many years prior to his death, he was considered authority for corners and locations in the county and dur-

ing his last year located a corner where there was no evidence of the same except the deeply buried mark. He did all the work along the line of civil engineering for the original Bloomington & Normal street railway. His thorough knowledge of engineering was largely instrumental in establishing the tile drainage system in this and surrounding counties. He conceived the idea of using brick for paving material, and with N. B. Keefer, a brickmaker of Bloomington, laid ten feet of brick pavement on Center street, west of the court house, as an experiment. That was the first brick pavement ever laid in the United States, and it remained intact for many years. He lived to see brick largely used as paving material.

Mr. Ela held the office of city engineer for some time, and was county surveyor for twenty consecutive years, but during the last eight years of his life he engaged in surveying but little. He became largely interested in and confined his attention to abstract making, doing it from his thorough knowledge of lands, corners, people and the records on file. He had invested quite extensively in real estate and was quite a successful business man. During the civil war, in company with Ira Moore, he raised a company, which was mustered into the United States service as Company G, Thirty-third Illinois Volunteer Infantry and was known as the Normal Regiment. He was commissioned first lieutenant of the company and was on duty in Missouri, lower Mississippi. In July, 1862, he resigned with the intention of joining the Ninety-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which was then being organized at Bloomington, but before his resignation was accepted and he reached home, the regiment had departed for the front. He did not re-enlist but

was appointed provost marshal of the northern district of Illinois, which position he held until the close of the war, when it was abolished.

On the 23d of April, 1863, Mr. Ela was united in marriage with Miss Frances Harriet Rowell, of Littleton, New Hampshire, where she was born November 15, 1835. Their acquaintance began in the east, being friends and neighbors there. She was a daughter of Guy C. and Clarissa (Rankin) Rowell. The Rowell family is of Welsh descent and was founded in New England prior to the Revolutionary war, in which struggle Mrs. Ela's great-grandfather, Daniel Rowell, took part, being one of the minute men from New Hampshire at the battle of Bunker Hill, and later a lieutenant in Colonel Stark's regiment of New Hampshire militia. He was present at the surrender of General Burgoyne. Mrs. Ela's father, a farmer of Littleton, New Hampshire, moved to Bloomington, Illinois, in the fall of 1862, just prior to the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Ela, and purchased land near Hudson. After the death of his wife he made his home with Mr. and Mrs. Ela until he was called to the world beyond, March 17, 1891. Religiously, he was a strict orthodox Congregationalist. Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Ela, namely: Clarissa E., principal of the drawing department of the State Normal University; Guy C., senior member of the Ela Manufacturing Company, manufacturers of grocers' supplies and shelf goods; and Harriet G., at home. The family are members of the Second Presbyterian church, and have a pleasant home at No. 309 East Locust street, where Mr. and Mrs. Ela spent their entire married life.

Politically, Mr. Ela was an ardent Re-



publican, but aside from the office of county surveying, he never cared for public positions. He was a great reader, and was well posted on current events, as well as science, politics, literature and history. He studied law, and was for more than twenty years a member of the Bloomington bar, though he practiced only in connection with his other business interests. When the University Center was organized he became an interested participant in what was said and done, and rarely did he miss a meeting. Though of a quiet, retiring disposition, he made friends readily, and had the happy faculty of being able to retain them. His home life was beautiful and exemplary. Ardent and consistent in his affections, he was a most tenderly devoted husband and father. To him there was truly "no place like home," and he found his greatest enjoyment in the companionship of his wife and children. He died February 5, 1898, honored and respected by all who knew him, for he was truly one of nature's noblemen.

JUDGE HENRY A. KARR, a prominent and influential citizen of Heyworth, as well as one of the honored pioneers of McLean county, dating his residence here from 1834, was born in Hamilton county, Ohio, near Cincinnati, August 5, 1830, and traces his ancestry back to Sir Walter Kerr (as the name was then spelled), a native of Scotland and the founder of the family in the United States. He was one of the pioneers of New Jersey, and the family became quite prominent in Sussex county, that state. There our subject's great-grandfather, Captain John Karr, spent his entire life. He held a captain's commission in the Revolutionary war. His son, Thomas Karr, the

grandfather of our subject, was also a native of Sussex county, New Jersey.

Walter Karr, the Judge's father, was born in Sussex county, in 1794, and when a young man went to Hamilton county, Ohio, where he was numbered among the pioneers. There he married a second cousin, Miss Eliza Karr, a daughter of Walter Karr, who was also a native of New Jersey and an early settler of Hamilton county, Ohio. After his marriage the father of our subject engaged in farming there for a few years and in 1834 came to McLean county, Illinois, where he bought a claim of forty acres and also entered land, owning at one time two hundred acres, which is now mostly within the corporate limits of Heyworth. Upon the original purchase was a cabin, into which the family moved, the father at once turning his attention to the further improvement and cultivation of his place. Later he built a good residence and made many other improvements upon the farm which added greatly to its value and attractive appearance. He was one of the well read and best informed men of the county, and was widely and favorably known. He died in March, 1876, at the advanced age of eighty-two years, having long survived the mother of our subject who passed away in 1838.

Judge Karr passed his boyhood and youth in McLean county, and is indebted to its common schools for his early education, which has been greatly supplemented in later years by the knowledge acquired by experience, reading and observation. He remained with his father until he attained his majority, and after leaving home followed the carpenter's trade for some years. At Heyworth he was married January 10, 1861, to Miss Martha E. Storey, a native of Hamilton county, Illinois. Her father,



Henry Storey, was born in Georgia, but was reared in southern Illinois, and there married Miss Mary Allen. He followed farming in Hamilton county for some years, but finally came to McLean county, where he carried on operations as a farmer and carpenter. Mr. and Mrs. Karr have four children, namely: Lyon, a man of superior education, and a prominent citizen of Eureka, served as county superintendent of public schools for some years, and is now treasurer of Woodford county; Grant is completing his education in Germany, having nearly finished a five-years' course in pedagogy at Jena; Mary is a well-educated young lady, who is now employed as a teacher in Austin, a suburb of Chicago; and Frank has been a prominent teacher of this state, and is now a student at Leland Stanford University.

After his marriage Judge Karr brought his bride to the old homestead at Heyworth, and for some years they lived in the house which his father had built, but recently a new house of modern style of architecture has been erected upon the same lot and is their present home. It is one of the best and most attractive residences in the village. The Judge still owns a valuable farm of eighty acres now within the corporate limits of Heyworth, and devotes a part of his time to agricultural pursuits. Politically he is a Jacksonian Democrat, who cast his first presidential vote for Franklin Pierce and his last for William J. Bryan. He has served as a delegate to county and congressional conventions and always taken an active and prominent part in local politics, and his fellow citizens, recognizing his worth and ability, have often elected him to office. For several years he served as justice of the peace and police magistrate and also as a

member of the village and school boards, and his official duties have always been most faithfully and conscientiously discharged. He and his sons are all members of the Masonic fraternity, himself and Frank belonging to the blue lodge of Heyworth, in which he is past master. His estimable wife is an earnest member of the Presbyterian church of that place. During the sixty-five years of his residence here Judge Karr has watched with interest the wonderful transformation that has taken place in McLean county, and as a public spirited and progressive citizen he has borne an active part in its development and prosperity, and has never withheld his support from any enterprise which he believed calculated to prove of public good. He is therefore justly numbered among its valued and representative citizens, and is certainly entitled to honorable mention in a work whose province is the portrayal of the lives of the leading and prominent men of McLean county.

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JOHN W. VANCE, who is now serving as mayor of Danvers, was born in Woodford county, Illinois, April 5, 1853, and is the son of Andrew and Eliza Gordon (Wheeler) Vance, the former a native of Todd county, Kentucky, born in 1818, and the latter of Massachusetts, born in November, 1830. In his native state Andrew Vance remained until he was seventeen years old, and then accompanied his father, James Vance, to Illinois. James Vance located a quarter of a mile from the McLean county line in Woodford county, and there took up some government land and engaged in farming. Andrew remained with his father, assisting in farm work a few years, and then went to Galena, Illinois, where he

was employed in the lead mines about one year. Returning, he located in what was then Concord, but now Danvers, Illinois, in 1846, and there engaged in the mercantile business with U. S. Hodge. After continuing in that business until 1851, he moved back to Woodford county to care for his father in the latter's declining years, and continued with him until his death in November, 1860. In 1861 he returned to Danvers, and there continued to reside until 1868, when he purchased a farm in Danvers township just east of the village, and there engaged in agricultural pursuits until his death, November 6, 1893. Success had crowned his efforts, and at that time he was the owner of between seven and eight hundred acres of land in Danvers and Allin townships. His wife preceded him some six years, dying September 23, 1887. They were the parents of six children, three of whom grew to maturity: John W., the subject of this sketch; James Edward, who died February 10, 1893, and Frank A., who married Miss Mary Cory, they residing with their three living children in the village of Danvers. In politics Andrew Vance was a Republican, and during his early life took quite an active part in politics. He was a member of the Baptist church, as was also his wife.

The subject of this sketch received his primary education in a country school just across the county line in McLean county, and in the village school at Danvers. He then attended Eureka College a short time, and then entered Wesleyan University, at Bloomington, where he took a three-year-course. After leaving the University he returned home, and on the 1st of October, 1877, he was united in marriage with Miss Helen I. McClure, a native of

McLean county, born October 29, 1851. Her father, Thomas B. McClure, was also a native of McLean county, and was born September 15, 1829. He was the son of Robert McClure, a colonel in the Black Hawk war, and who was one of the first settlers of McLean county. Thomas B. McClure married Miss Emma Clark November 18, 1849. She is a native of Kentucky, born February 28, 1830, and is the daughter of Henry I. and Mary L. (Mansfield) Clark, both natives of Virginia, who moved to Kentucky in an early day, and to Woodford county, Illinois, in 1836. Her father served as sergeann during the war of 1812. To Mr. and Mrs. Thomas McClure were born seven children, five of whom grew to maturity: Helen I., wife of our subject; Elizabeth, wife of John I. Armour, and now residing in Marshalltown, Iowa; Emma, wife of Charles Vance, of Danvers; William, residing in St. Louis; and Joseph, who died at the age of thirty-one years. Mr. McClure was for years a merchant in Danvers, but in 1866 moved to St. Louis, Missouri, where he engaged in the grocery business, and also in the real-estate business. He died in that city July 8, 1897. In politics he was a Republican, and while not a member, gave support to the Presbyterian church. His wife survives him and is now residing in Danvers. She is a member of the Congregational church.

After his marriage, Mr. Vance moved to his farm adjoining the village of Danvers on the north, a part of which was inside the corporate limits, and a portion afterward surveyed and subdivided into town lots. He there resided, actively engaged in farming and stock raising until 1889, when on account of the ill health of his wife, he moved into the village, where he has since practi-

cally lived retired. For a time, in addition to his farm duties, he was engaged in buying and shipping stock. His farm, adjoining the village, comprises eighty acres, in addition to which he owns a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Allin township.

In politics Mr. Vance is a Republican, and for several years he was a member of the village board, and in 1899 was elected mayor of the village. He has taken an active part in local politics, and has served as a delegate in a number of county, congressional and state conventions. Fraternally, he is a member of Danvers Lodge, No. 742, A. F. & A. M., and of Bloomington Chapter, No. 25, R. A. M. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and was formerly a member of the Elks. His wife is a member of the Congregational church. As a citizen he is enterprising and up with the times, believing in doing all in his power to advance the interests of his town, county and state, and is quite popular with the people.

JACOB WAHL is now living a retired life in Bloomington and is numbered among the substantial residents of the city, but when he came to America, on attaining his majority, he had no capital save a strong determination to succeed. Steadily has he worked his way upward, advancing step by step until he has reached a position of affluence, and now in his declining years he can rest from arduous toil, his needs being supplied by the labors of former years.

Mr. Wahl was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, March 21, 1827. The family was originally from Holland, but for three generations Wurtemberg had been the ancestral home, and there Job Jacob Wahl,

father of our subject, was born, reared and carried on farming. He became the wealthiest man in the country side and served as the "squire" for sixteen years. He spent his entire life there and was one of the most prominent and influential citizens of the community. His son, Jacob Wahl, remained on the farm until seventeen years of age, when he went to the city and learned the butcher's trade, serving a regular four years' apprenticeship. He not only received no compensation for his services, but had to pay two hundred dollars for the privilege of being instructed in the business. On attaining his majority he was called to render military service to his country, but hiring a substitute, he secured a pass permitting him to leave the fatherland and came to America. He located first in New York City, but soon made his way westward to Pekin, Illinois, traveling by canal, steamer and on foot, and reaching his destination after two months upon the road. He could speak no English, and in order to gain a livelihood worked at anything that he could get to do through the succeeding five years.

On the 20th of January, 1853 Mr. Wahl arrived in Bloomington and during the greater part of the time since has been actively connected with the business interests of the city. Here he engaged in the butchering business, opening a meat market which was the first store on Front street. Later he removed to Center street, and built the first brick block there, the location being just opposite the present business conducted under the name of "My Store," on the old Sydney Baker place. Mr. Wahl did his own butchering and met with success from the beginning. There was another meat market here at the time, but he soon secured such a large patronage that the other



market was forced to close. He was particularly famed for the excellent sausage he made, and his trade continued to be large and lucrative for many years. At the time he opened his store there was no bank in Bloomington, and the commercial possibilities of the city were yet to be developed. As the years passed Mr. Wahl made many investments in real estate, and although all did not prove profitable, he was generally successful in such dealings, and eventually became one of the wealthy German citizens of Bloomington. He owned a fine residence on Front street, and also erected five or six houses which he rented.

About twenty-one years ago, however, he sold his meat market here and removed to Abilene, Kansas, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land. He at once began to cultivate and improve the farm, but made his home thereon for only eighteen months and removed to the city that his sons might engage in the meat business which was the only line with which they were familiar. He erected there a fine brick block which now bears the name of Wahl Brothers, and for a number of years conducted one of the largest and most paying meat markets in Abilene. Success attended his efforts and fortune seemed to favor him in that, the day before the failure of one of the banks there he drew out seven thousand dollars, and deposited it in a new bank, recently established. He continued in business in Kansas until 1894, when on account of his wife's illness he retired, since which time his money has been loaned and he has rested in the honest enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil.

During the days of his early residence in Bloomington, Mr. Wahl married Miss Fredericka Petziemeir, and for many years

she was to him a faithful companion and helpmeet, but her death occurred on the 2d of September, 1894. Their children are Jacob, who is now living in Seattle, Washington; Leah, wife of Ed Pelzer, ex-mayor of Ionia, Michigan; Louis, who is engaged in business in Abilene, Kansas; Lizzie, wife of George F. Moore, a member of the firm of Wahl Brothers, of Abilene; and Atwood, a resident of Chicago.

In 1898 Mr. Wahl returned to Bloomington, where he now resides. He has never held office, in fact has ever refused to become a candidate for political preferment, desiring rather to devote his time and energies to his business. He was a charter member of Uhland Lodge, A. F. & A. M., of Bloomington, and contributed liberally to the building of the Methodist Episcopal and Lutheran churches here, yet has never been a member of any denomination. His hope of bettering his financial condition by emigrating to the new world has been more than realized. In this land where opportunity for advancement is offered to all who have ambition and energy, he has gained most creditable success, as the reward of his earnest, persistent labor and honorable business methods, and is numbered among the most substantial citizens of McLean county. He is a worthy representative of that class of reliable, enterprising citizens who come to us from the fatherland, and his record is alike creditable to his native and adopted country.

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PROF. MELVIN P. LACKLAND,  
A. M., B. D. Only those lives are worthy of record that have been potential factors in the public progress, in promoting the general welfare, or advancing the edu-



cational or moral interests of the community. Professor Lackland, who is filling the chair of mathematics and astronomy in the Illinois Wesleyan University, is not only one of the leading educators of the state, but as a minister of the gospel he has exerted a widespread influence, and is certainly deserving of prominent mention in a work of this character.

A native of Illinois, Professor Lackland was born in Tremont, Tazewell county, October 12, 1851, and comes of quite an illustrious and distinguished family, in which were many prominent doctors and lawyers, and all were men of fine physique. Virginia was the early home of the family in this country, but they were originally from Scotland, and the name was formerly spelled Lachlan. The Professor's paternal grandfather, David Lackland, was born in the vicinity of the Natural Bridge, Virginia, and on coming west stopped for a short time in Tennessee, but in 1831 took up his residence in Tazewell county, Illinois, where as a pioneer farmer he endured many hardships and privations. In religious faith he was a Baptist.

Colonel William R. Lackland, the Professor's father, was born in 1830, during the temporary residence of the family in Tennessee, but was reared in Tremont township, Tazewell county, Illinois, where on reaching man's estate he engaged in farming on his own account. During the civil war, he raised and organized a company which was assigned to the One Hundred and Eighth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and entered the service as captain, but was later promoted to major and afterward to lieutenant colonel. He participated in the siege of Vicksburg, and with his command marched into that city July 4, 1863. He received most hon-

orable mention from General A. J. Smith in his report to the secretary of war for leading the charge on Spanish Fort, where he rode at the head of his men. He was one of the strongest men in his command and was a member of General Smith's staff. At the expiration of his three years' term of enlistment he returned to his wife and six children, and resumed farming in Tremont township, where he owned four hundred and fifty acres of valuable land, which he most successfully operated until his death in 1874. Politically he was an ardent Republican, but never an aspirant for office. In 1848 he married Miss Cordelia C. Warner, who was born near Syracuse, New York, and when young was brought by her father, Hiram Warner, to Tazewell county, Illinois, where she still resides. Of the nine children born to this union, all are still living with the exception of one. The mother is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which the father also belonged. As a Sunday school superintendent, he took an active part in church work and helped to organize many mission schools throughout his county. The Grand Army Post at Morton, Illinois, has been named in his honor. He was a man of strong intellectual power, took a prominent part in the affairs of Tremont township.

The mother of our subject is a great-granddaughter of General Warner of Revolutionary fame, and a cousin of the well-known H. H. Warner, of Syracuse, New York. The home of the family was near that city, at a place now known as Warners.

Professor Lackland began his education in the public schools near his boyhood home, and later attended the high school at Tremont, after which he engaged in teaching for a time in his native county. In

September, 1872, he entered the Illinois Wesleyan University, where he pursued his studies uninterruptedly for three years. The following year, however, he remained at home, as he had been appointed administrator of his father's estate, which was quite large, and his father had instructed him how to proceed. He successfully settled this business to the entire satisfaction of all concerned. In the fall of 1876 he returned to the university, where he was graduated in June, 1878. He was president of his class and with the exception of one term of school, always occupied the first place in mathematics. In September, 1879, he entered Drew Theological Seminary, Madison, New Jersey, where he was a student for one year, and then entered the Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, Illinois, where he was graduated in May, 1882. During his last year at that place, he preached at Sibley, Illinois, where he started with a church of nine members and at the end of two years left it with a membership of eighty-three, having met with most remarkable success in his first pastoral work. In 1881, he was granted the degree of A. M. by Illinois Wesleyan University.

After leaving the Biblical Institute, Professor Lackland was admitted to the Central Illinois Conference, where he had to pass his full four years of study and examination, the same as though he had not prepared in college. He had charge of the congregation at Selma for three years, and also met with excellent success there. He not only paid off a church debt of twelve years standing, but gave the people good, careful religious teaching, so that in a few weeks his successor in a revival had over two hundred conversions. A petition was then sent in to the conference to have him made principal

of the public schools of Roanoke and also as pastor of the Methodist church there, where he remained two years, teaching school five days out of the week and preaching twice on Sunday. The presiding elder then persuaded him to change and give his time to teaching. By his advice he went to Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, spending his time there in the special study of mathematics. At the close of the year he was elected professor of mathematics at Chaddock College, Quincy, Illinois, and a year later when the president resigned he was made acting president. The following year he was made president of the college, and during the two years he served in that capacity that institution had the largest enrollment it has ever had, either before or since. Professor Lackland was then offered his present position at the Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, but the college at Quincy, wishing to retain him, offered him a handsome increase in salary and the degree of D. D. He, however, accepted the chair of mathematics and astronomy at the Wesleyan University, which he has now so creditably and acceptably filled for the past seven years. During this time a good observatory has been added to the college equipment and a telescope placed in it,—the gift of A. C. Behr, of Chicago, a personal friend of our subject. This has enabled him to give extra work to that line of study, and he now has the largest class in astronomy ever in the college.

Besides his duties in the university, Professor Lackland has lectured or preached in nearly every town within a radius of fifty miles of Bloomington, filling the pulpits not only in the church of his own denomination but also in Baptist, Presbyterian and Con-

gregational churches. One of his most popular lectures and one that he has been called upon to deliver many times in lecture courses is that entitled "The Boy." He has always taken an active interest in the college Young Men's Christian Association work, is a well known Sunday school teacher, and is now temporarily filling the pulpits of the Methodist churches at Chatsworth and Weston. Socially he is a member of the College Alumni Club, the leading literary club of the city.

On the 12th of July, 1882, Professor Lackland was united in marriage with Miss Edith P. Tryner, of Bloomington, who attended the high school with him in Tremont, and is a daughter of George F. Tryner, a well known citizen of Bloomington. They now have three children: William Tryner, Marguerite Warner and Harold W. The family have a pleasant home at No. 912 North Madison street, where they have resided for seven years.

**G**EORGE E. MARKER is one of the self-made men and honored citizens of Heyworth, who through his own unaided efforts has secured a handsome competence. For many years he was actively identified with the agricultural and industrial interests of the county, but is now living retired surrounded by all the comforts and many of the luxuries of life, which have been secured through his untiring labor and good business ability. Since coming to Heyworth he has invested largely in real estate, and has distinguished himself as a liberal and public-spirited citizen, willing to aid any enterprise for the public good.

A native of Virginia, Mr. Marker was born in Frederick county, February 17,

1822, and comes of good old Revolutionary stock, his grandfather, Squire Marker, also a native of Frederick county, Virginia, having assisted the Colonies in throwing off the yoke of British oppression as a soldier of the Continental army. The family is of German origin and was early established in Frederick county. George Marker, the father of our subject, was born in the Shenandoah Valley, about 1793, and throughout his active business career followed the blacksmith's trade in Frederick county, where he also owned and operated a farm for a time. Later he was overseer of a plantation for about fifteen years, but spent his last days in retirement at Middletown, Virginia, where he died in 1861. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Margaret Stroasnider, was also a native of the Old Dominion and of German ancestry. She survived him for some time and died at the ripe old age of eighty-four. To them were born thirteen children, seven sons and six daughters, all of whom grew to mature years and became heads of families, and four sons and four daughters are still living.

In the county of his nativity, George E. Marker, of this review, was reared upon a farm, and during his youth he assisted in its operation and in the work of his father's blacksmith shop. There he was married March 21, 1843, to Miss Sarah Ann Gourley, a native of Clarke county, Virginia, and then removed to Hampshire county, that state, where he operated the North river grist and saw mills for several years, owning the same for about twelve years. Selling his interests there in 1857, he came to McLean county, Illinois, and first located at Dimond Grove, but the following spring removed to Lytleville, where he worked by the day in a mill for several years, and then



purchased the plant, which he operated as a grist and saw mill until 1890. During that time he bought several tracts of timber land, from which he cut the trees and converted the same into lumber. He also opened up a good farm of one hundred and seventy acres, which he still owns. He cleared over two hundred acres of land, and in this way bore an active part in the development and upbuilding of the county.

In 1880, Mr. Marker rented his property here and removed to Wellington, Sumner county, Kansas, for the benefit of his wife's health. During the winter spent at that place, he bought lots and erected two houses thereon, which he sold the following spring on his return to McLean county. He located in Bloomington, where his wife died in 1885. To them were born eight children, of whom two are now deceased. Those living are Frances, now the wife of Henry Smith, of Bloomington; William, a resident of Lytleville, who operates the old mill and farm at that place; Matilda, wife of Robert Orr, of Bloomington; James, a resident of the same city; Lucy, wife of Orin Myers, a farmer of McLean county; and Mrs. Addie Urich, of Heyworth. In 1885, soon after his wife's death, Mr. Marker took up his residence in Heyworth, where he has since made his home. Here he purchased several lots, erected three residences and bought three more, all of which he still owns.

At Normal, Illinois, Mr. Marker was again married, February 14, 1888, his second union being with Miss Nannie Bentley, a native of Culpeper county, Virginia, and a daughter of Jerome and Hannah (Grant) Bentley, the former born in Washington, District of Columbia, the latter in Virginia. The father was reared in the Old Dominion,

and at an early day removed to Hannibal, Missouri, where he lived for a number of years, but spent his last days in Illinois, dying in McLean county, at the age of eighty-four years. He was an active, bright and intelligent man up to the time of his death and was a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Since casting his first presidential vote for James K. Polk, Mr. Marker has been a staunch supporter of the principles of the Democratic party as advocated by Jackson, and has never failed to vote for all of its presidential candidates since that time. He has never sought office, but for three years most acceptably served as road commissioner in his township, and his duties of citizenship have always been most faithfully performed. At the age of sixteen years he united with the Methodist Episcopal church, and he and his wife are now active members of the church in Heyworth, of which he is a trustee. A man of good business ability and exemplary habits, his upright character and sterling worth have commended him to the confidence and high regard of all with whom he has come in contact, and his friends throughout McLean county are many.

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JESSE PLATT, whose home is on section I, Hudson township, is recognized as one of the most thorough and skillful agriculturists of his community, who, in connection with general farming has given considerable attention to stock raising. He is pursuing the even tenor of his way as an honest man and good citizen, furthering the good of his township as he has opportunity and enjoying the respect of his neighbors and friends.



A native of Illinois, Mr. Platt was born January 13, 1830, on the present site of Urbana, Champaign county, and is a son of Hezekiah and Elizabeth (Hogens) Platt. The father was born in Hunterdon county, New Jersey, July 24, 1802, and from there removed in early life to Licking county, Ohio, where his marriage was celebrated. In 1829 he came to Illinois, and after a short stay in Champaign county, took up his residence in what is now Hudson township, McLean county, during the infancy of our subject. Later he took up land in Towanda township and afterward in Money Creek township, where he continued to make his home until 1849, when he disposed of his property in this county and removed to Woodford county, Illinois. In 1854, he sold his farm there and went to Fayette county, Iowa, where he entered a half-section of land, on which he lived until called from this life, July 4, 1875. His wife had died May 4, 1859. The paternal grandfather of our subject, Abel Platt, died in Ohio.

Jesse Platt is one of a family of eight children, six sons and two daughters, who reached years of maturity and all are now living, with the exception of one. In order of birth they are as follows: Abel, a resident of Gibson City, Illinois; Jesse, our subject; Josiah, of Fayette county, Iowa; Amelia, who died in childhood; John, who was a soldier in the regular army and was killed by the Indians in Minnesota, July 2, 1863; Milton, who was in northwestern Kansas when last heard from; Enoch, a resident of Sumner county, Kansas; Rebecca, wife of Charles Shippey, of Bremer county, Iowa; Phœbe, who died in childhood; Ensley, a resident of Wellington, Kansas; and Adaline, wife of James Badger, of Marshall county, Illinois.

Coming to McLean during his infancy, Jesse Platt spent the first nineteen years of his life here, and then accompanied his parents on their removal to Woodford county. Having to assist his father in the operation of the farm, he received only a very meagre education during his youth, most of which was obtained outside of the school-room. On attaining his majority he returned to this county, where he first engaged in farm labor by the day and month, and finally rented land for several years.

On the 18th of July, 1860, Mr. Platt was united in marriage with Miss Jane Hinthorn, who was born in Licking county, Ohio, December 3, 1832, and is one of a family of twelve children, five of whom reached man and womanhood. In 1836 she was brought to McLean county, Illinois, by her parents, Isaac and Margaret (Moats) Hinthorn, and the farm now occupied by Mr. Platt is a part of the original tract purchased by her father. Politically, he was a stanch Democrat, and, religiously, a faithful member of the Christian church. He died here December 15, 1848, his wife January 15, 1869. Their children who reached years of maturity, were Margaret, who died in Ohio; James, who died in early manhood, unmarried; Rebecca, wife of Elijah Priest, of Hudson township; Elizabeth, wife of Martin McCord, of Gridley township; and Mrs. Platt, who is the youngest and only survivor of the family. Five children were born to our subject and wife, namely: Elizabeth E., at home; James I., who married Etta, daughter of Stephen Huston, and is engaged in farming in Hudson township; William E., who operates the home farm; Margaret F., at home; and George E., who died in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. Platt began their married

life upon a farm of one hundred and twenty acres on section 1, Hudson township, where she had made her home since six years old. To this he has added from time to time, as his financial resources have permitted, until he now has three hundred and thirty-five acres of valuable land, a part of which is on sections 1 and 12, Hudson township, and the remainder on section 6, Money Creek township. He has met with excellent success in his farming operations, and for the past eight years has given special attention to the breeding of red-polled cattle.

At national and state elections Mr. Platt supports the men and measures of the Democratic party, but at local elections, where no issue is involved, votes independent of party ties for the man whom he believes best qualified to fill the office. Both he and his wife are consistent members of the Christian church, and are held in high regard by all who have the pleasure of their acquaintance on account of their exemplary lives and character. For twenty-seven long years Mr. Platt has served as school director in his district, and filled the office of county commissioner for two terms.

**GORDON HALL READ AND ANNAH CLIFFORD READ.** The city of Bloomington has numbered among its citizens many noted persons, some of whom have made for themselves national reputations and have been men of influence in governmental affairs, their names becoming household words. While a number have been more widely known, there has probably never been a better man living within its borders than the one whose name heads this sketch. This, without doubt, is the verdict of the people generally.

The Read families trace their ancestry back to an early date in the history of this country. George W. Read, the father of the subject of this sketch, was the grandson of Major Reuben Read, of Warren, Massachusetts, one of the "minute men" in Revolutionary days. Responding to the "midnight messenger," he started for Boston, April 20, 1775, as captain of a company of forty-three men. The historian says: "He was a prominent man and possessed of a strong character." Reuben Read was the son of Nathaniel Read, who settled in Warren, Massachusetts. His father, Thomas Read, born in 1678, came from England and settled in Sudbury, Massachusetts. The family line is the same as that of Thomas B. Reed, of Maine, although he spells the name differently. It is said the different spelling came about by some one of the family having a business stamp made, in which the maker of the stamp inadvertently substituted an "e" for an "a," and the one for whom the stamp was made using it, the family with whom he was connected adopted that spelling, which continues to this day.

Gordon Hall Read was a native of Massachusetts, and was born in Warren, August 18, 1830. He always had a warm attachment for his boyhood home, and never tired of relating incidents connected with the old farm life among the Massachusetts hills. The trees and brooks and shady nooks—in fact everything in its natural scenery, twined itself about his heart. It was here the father, a younger brother and sister older than himself, had died. It was an unpretentious home, and one bereft of a father's care September 27, 1840, when Gordon was but ten years of age; but it was a home where love dwelt, and



G. H. READ.

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where the three brothers took upon themselves the burdens which fell naturally to them by their father's death. Those were days of heroic self-denial and unselfish devotion to home interests, with a boyish pride and satisfaction in the thought that the little farm compared favorably in its care with its neighbors. The mother sought to lighten the burden of her boys, while they with true filial devotion that was ever present with them to her latest years, were thoughtful of her. Later, this old country home in South Brookfield, Massachusetts, was sold, and the family moved to the village of Warren, for the better school privileges which the academy there afforded. The good mother survived her husband many years, departing this life February 2, 1892.

The early life of Gordon H. Read was spent in his native state. Farm life, school life in Warren Academy, learning the machinist's trade, work at Windsor Locks and East Berlin, Connecticut, with the frugal savings of a few hundred dollars, were followed by a trip to the World's Fair, with its crystal palace, at New York, and later to the great west, when the region of St. Paul and Minneapolis was a wilderness; from thence by boat to St. Louis, and finally a selection of Moline, Illinois, as a place in which to locate. Here his mother and brother Lucius' family joined him. Two years later, in 1859, they removed to Bloomington, where he opened a stove and hardware store on Main street, renting the building on the sight where, in 1871, the present store was built.

Mr. Read was attracted to Bloomington because of the location of his brother Charles there, who was in the employ of the firm of George Bradner & Company.

Mr. Charles E. Read was associated with his brother Gordon in his new business venture, and in 1869, ten years later, a partnership was formed, the new firm taking the name of G. H. Read & Brother.

After Mr. Gordon Read's death his ownership in the firm came into the possession of Mrs. Read and son, and later Mr. Lucius Read's son, George Burt, was admitted into the firm. Mr. Charles Read continued a member until his death, February 21, 1898.

The business still continues at the old stand under the name of "G. H. Read & Brother," so long and well known, the members being Mrs. G. H. Read, Harry C. Read and George Burt Read.

In speaking of this association of the brothers in business, Mrs. Read says: "I do not think that in all the years of business life that followed, there was ever a hasty or unkind word between these brothers. Lucius was also in the store for several years, and the old companionship of these brothers, three, lost no interest by the added years."

In January, 1863, Mr. Read was united in marriage with Miss Annah Clifford, a native of Loudon, New Hampshire, and daughter of Jane M. and Joseph E. Clifford. Her mother was for several years a successful teacher. The Martin and Clifford families were both of old New England stock. It may here be remarked that the maternal grandfather of Mr. Read, Joseph Hamilton, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. Two children came to bless the union of Mr. and Mrs. Read. One son, Clarence Gordon grew to manhood, but was called to the upper and better world February 28, 1890.

Of Mrs. Read, Mrs. Amelia E. Sanford thus speaks editorially, in the Illinois W. C. T. U. Watch-Tower: "Woven into Illinois white ribbon history, a shining

thread of unclouded brightness, widely known in temperance circles in state and nation, loved and trusted wherever her influence has reached, she stands forth a conspicuous example of sterling worth most highly honored where most intimately known. Annah Clifford's life began amid the inspiring scenes of the old Granite state, and here was developed the unswerving adherence to principle and the heroic devotion to duty which are strong points in her character. Under the careful training of Christian parents she early accepted Christ as the rule and pattern of her life, and from childhood has been his loyal follower. Taking great delight in study, she easily acquired rare excellence as a student, and success is written upon all the pages of her school life. Teaching was her chosen field of labor. She began this work in her native state, and, coming to Illinois in the spring of 1860, she followed her avocation in McLean county. Gordon H. Read had made his home in Bloomington a few years before. It is not strange that the two whom we know as one in thought and purpose should meet, that they should consent to wear one name and share one home and that their life paths should blend. This was an ideal marriage and theirs a happy home. Out of it flowed cheerful and refining influences and such an uplift of hope and faith as led many to bear life's burdens more bravely."

Mrs. Read has been connected with W. C. T. U. work since the first local union was organized in Bloomington, March 16, 1874, called at first Woman's Temperance League, from which society went out the call for the first Illinois W. C. T. U. convention, which met in the old First Methodist Episcopal church, where the

state organization was formed. Mrs. Read had neglected to ask the janitor to ring the bell at the hour for assembling, and performed that task herself for the first and last time. From the crusade days to the present, she has been very active in the work and has now a national reputation as a worker in that cause. From the day of the organization of the Illinois W. C. T. U., Miss Frances E. Willard and Mrs. Read were warm friends. Miss Willard being often in the Read home, was always gladly welcomed and greatly beloved by every member of the family, as was her faithful secretary, Anna Gordon. Miss Willard named the guest chamber in the Read home—"Peace." For many years Mrs. Read was president of the local union, and at the time of the "crusade" in Bloomington, did effective work in helping carry the city for prohibition. The city council having promised to abide by the decision of the people in relation to the prohibition of the liquor traffic, with many others, Mrs. Read worked hard to secure a majority for no license, and was rejoiced when the result was announced that there was a majority of one hundred and fifty-nine against license. To the shame of the city council it did not live up to its promise. For five years, Mrs. Read was state treasurer of the W. C. T. U., and for thirteen years was superintendent of its press department. For several years she was state reporter for the Union Signal, the organ of the National and World's W. C. T. U., and also edited a column in a local prohibition paper. She is an active worker in the Second Presbyterian church, of which she has been a member for many years, serving as the first president of its Woman's Foreign Missionary society. In the Sunday-school work

she has been no less active, and for many years has been an earnest teacher. A young lady attending the Normal University is now a member of her Bible-class whose father was a member of her Sunday-school class before he was married, nearly a quarter of a century ago. The Christian Endeavor movement has also found in her a warm friend. Mrs. Read was the first president of the Star Temperance Union, a temperance society connected with the Sunday-schools of Bloomington. She served as superintendent of the Band of Hope.

At present, she is local superintendent of the press department of the Central W. C. T. U. She was appointed on the "printing committee," at the organization of W. C. T. U. work here twenty-five years ago and has never been released from that service. She is also connected with the "Evangelistic," and "Parlor Meetings" department, locally, and is district superintendent of the "Red Letter Day Observance" department and "Parlor Meetings."

Mrs. Read is interested especially in behalf of children and youth, and among her latest endeavors is an appeal to the city council of Bloomington for the enactment of a "curfew ordinance" for their better protection.

For a third of a century Gordon H. Read was numbered among the active business men of Bloomington. An employer of men he always had the respect and good will of every employe. At his death he had in his employ men who had been with him from ten to twenty-six years. He treated his men with the utmost consideration, and was interested in their prosperity. For some years he was in ill-health, and premonitions of what proved of a serious nature had come to him occasionally, but his

habit of quiet endurance tended to allay fears. In the winter of 1890 he made a hurried trip to California, called there by the serious illness of his son, Clarence, and the sad experience and bereavement that followed were a great strain upon him, and a long, continuous decline was hastened, although he attended to business as usual until the summer of 1891, when he went to West Baden Springs, Indiana, and returned to his home with great hope of real improvement; but soon a new complication arose, and there was one long earnest effort for returning health amid great suffering. In March, 1892, accompanied by his ever faithful wife, he went to the Nichols Memorial Hospital, at Battle Creek, Michigan, where he had treatment under skillful physicians until in July following, when, by the physicians' advice he went to Massachusetts for a trial of the sea air. Harry was summoned to join them there. After a stay of five weeks, and feeling that he was not being benefited, they returned to their home in Bloomington, starting August 18, the anniversary of Mr. Read's birth. Three weeks he lingered, bearing his suffering in an uncomplaining manner, feeling that his time on earth was drawing to a close. On the 10th of September, 1892, his spirit was released. He fell asleep. Always prepared to go he did not dread the summons, and his great desire for life was for the benefit of those he loved, and as he said, that he "might do more good in the world."

When the news of his death was announced expressions of sympathy poured in on the desolate widow, and all had a kind word to say of him who had been called to his reward. Rev. Dr. Kane, pastor of the Second Presbyterian church, conducted the



funeral services, being assisted by Rev. L. Taylor, of Wenona, Ill., who was Mr. Read's pastor more than thirty years before. In the course of his remarks, Rev. Taylor said: "The death of Mr. Read has touched the hearts of the people of this city as but few deaths could. None knew him but to love, admire and honor him. There are elements of character that make a man's life precious—the love and practice of truth and righteousness with man, in obedience to the second command; sincere devotion to the service of God, making one's religion a life power, omnipresent amid life's industries and in the marts of business, as well as in the church, during the secular days of the week, as well as on the Lord's day, these were the elements in the character of Gordon Read that made his life precious. The life he led in the presence of his workmen will make for peace and righteousness. Such treatment of employees, generally, would prevent strikes and solve the labor problem. Coupled with a quiet, cheerful and loving manner, was a courage to stand by his convictions of right and duty, whoever might oppose. He was ever ready to give intelligent reasons for his course of action. His strong, unswerving trust in God wrought itself out in the support of moral reforms and various religious enterprises of the day. These elements of character adorned his youth. They were nourished by the influence of a Christian home and a mother's wise instruction. They strengthened in maturing age and fitted him to be the man he was. He had great love for the house of God, and was a constant attendant upon its services, was a member of the Sunday-school from his childhood up. Surely such a life is precious in the sight of God and man."

When a boy, Mr. Read was very timid and often wondered at the self assurance of other boys. Temperance principles were instilled in him from childhood. When quite small, he belonged to a children's temperance society, and was quite proud to march in its processions. The teachings of his youth never forsook him, and his home was always the headquarters of temperance men and women, a center of temperance influence and activity. "Here were formed the plans for the organization of the Illinois W. T. C. U., and from thence sped forth the white-winged messengers that summoned the workers to council. Here Washingtonians and Prohibitionists, and the cold water fraternity of every name, found comfort and help, and the names of Gordon H. and Annah C. Read were synonyms of temperance and purity." For many years Mr. Read was treasurer of the Washingtonian Club, a temperance society he helped to organize in the interests of "rescue work." He was one of its most ardent helpers.

As already stated, the home life of Gordon H. Read and wife was an ideal one. In it each shone at his or her best. Love reigned supreme. On one occasion a visitor in their home said to Mrs. Read: "I have been trying to decide which of you has to give up when a difference of opinion occurs." She answered, "Neither of us." "But," replied the visitor, "with two such positive characters one has to yield." To this Mrs. Read responded, "I am not conscious of yielding, and I do not think Gordon is. When I know what is his wish, that is what I want, and when he knows what I desire, that is what he wishes. How can there be a conflict under such circumstances?"



In politics, Mr. Read was a Republican until he became convinced that his party would not espouse the principle of prohibition of the liquor traffic, for which he had earnestly worked, and from thenceforth he allied himself with the Prohibition party, as he could give no indorsement to a "license policy." He was a man of positive convictions, but there was a vein of humor in his make-up that made him an agreeable companion. He sometimes referred to his "war record" for the amusement of his friends, and of his "honorable discharge from the Grand Army of the Republic," as he was among those who, in 1862, responded to the midnight dispatch from Springfield calling for two hundred men instantly to go to Camp Butler. The enlistment was for thirty days, and a little after daylight they were on their way. When the imagined danger from the rebel prisoners there was past, they returned on furloughs for the unexpired time, and afterward were discharged, hence there was opportunity for merriment, in after years, over that brief experience, although it was serious business to them, when, to the music of the fife and drum, many of the leading citizens of Bloomington kept step in that procession. Mr. Read was always averse to holding any official position, but consented to serve as a member of the board of trustees of the Second Presbyterian church for a term of three years.

From his boyhood up Mr. Read was a great reader, and his knowledge concerning the affairs of the world was general, along every line of thought or action, but he rated himself utterly deficient in gifts for public speaking, although his interest and earnestness led him to take part occasionally in temperance or social meetings by prayer or

remarks. His life work is now over, and while in the eyes of the world it may not have been a brilliant one, yet everything done was for the betterment of mankind. The poor and needy always had in him a friend, and his helping hand was always outstretched. He could well say at the conclusion of life's journey, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith, and henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me in that day." "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, from henceforth; yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors and their works do follow them."

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**DANIEL MCFARLAND.** This gentleman, who spent his early manhood in active business, first in agricultural pursuits and later in merchandising, is now living retired in Bloomington, having a good home at No. 1007 South Madison street. A man of great energy and more than ordinary business capacity, his success in life has been largely due to his own efforts and the sound judgment which has enabled him to make wise investments and take good advantage of his resources.

Mr. McFarland was born in Providence, Rhode Island, November 30, 1823, and is a son of Thomas McFarland, who was born near Edinburg, Scotland, in 1800, and came alone to the United States at the age of fifteen years, his parents being dead. He located at Providence, where he learned the baker's trade, and then went into business in that line for himself. There he was united in marriage with Miss Martha Cory, a daughter of Bradford Cory, who belonged to a prominent old New England family,

tracing their lineage back to the Landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock. They were descendants of Governor Bradford, of Massachusetts. Our subject is one of a family of eight children, all born in Providence, where the father continued to make his home until 1838, when he sold his property there and came to McLean county, Illinois, settling in what was then Mt. Hope township, but is now McLean. The family went from Providence to Stonington, Connecticut, by railroad, to New York by canal boat; to Philadelphia by railroad, and to Pittsburg by the old canal through the mountains. On their arrival in Pittsburg they found the Ohio river very low, and the father and a friend purchased a canal boat with the intention of floating down the river, but owing to a sudden rise in that stream they boarded a steamer, on which they would travel four or five miles in the night, while they explored the country along the bank in the day time. It was just five weeks from the time they left Providence that they arrived in St. Louis. Finding the Illinois river too low to navigate, they hired a stage and proceeded on their journey, reaching their destination four or five days later. The prairies were all blackened by fire, and so sparsely was country settled at that time that only five houses could be seen from their place. The father purchased a half-section of land in Mt. Hope township, and in those early days the family experienced the usual hardships of pioneer life. All produce raised on the farm was then hauled to the river. To the improvement and cultivation of his land the father devoted his energies for many years with good success, making a fine home, but spent the last two years of his life in retirement at Atlanta, where he died

in 1869. His wife had passed away the year previous. Both were consistent members of the Congregational church, in which he served as deacon, and he affiliated with the Republican party.

Daniel McFarland, of this review, received a good practical education in the schools of Providence, Rhode Island, and after coming to this state assisted his father in his farming operations until twenty-eight years of age. In 1850 was celebrated his marriage with Miss Amanda Sweatland, who died leaving three children, namely: Howard, a resident of McLean, who married Flora Kisey and has three children; Clara, wife of George W. Church, who lives near McLean and by whom she has three children; and Ella, wife of Clark Snedeker, now of Nebraska, by whom she has five children. On the first of January, 1862, Mr. McFarland was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Maria Briggs, a native of Taunton, Massachusetts, and a daughter of Ansel and Louisa (Wilber) Howard. She lost her mother when only four years old. Her father, who was born in Bridgewater, Massachusetts, June 24, 1803, was a machinist by trade and had a car shop in Taunton, where he built cars for the Taunton & New Bedford railroad. At length he was forced to retire from that business on account of blindness and made his home with a son in McLean, Illinois. In 1852, Mrs. McFarland removed to McLean with her first husband, Dr. Briggs, who was killed by lightning in 1857. By that union she had two children, both living. Those living are Louisa, wife of M. Waltman, of Glen Elder, Kansas, by whom she has seven children; and Mary Lizzie, wife of John Florea, who lives near Republic City, Nebraska, and by whom she has three

children. By his second marriage, Mr. McFarland has two sons: Thomas, a resident of McLean, who married Nellie Stones and has two children; and Albert C., superintendent of the Corn Belt Printing & Stationery Company of Bloomington.

After his first marriage, Mr. McFarland bought a part of his father's farm in Mt. Hope township, a mile and a half from McLean, where he continued to engage in general farming until 1887, making somewhat of a specialty of small fruit, of which he had a large variety upon his place, and he was the only one in his locality to extensively engage in that business. After he became the owner of the entire quarter-section of land taken up by his father and for a few years he served as assessor of his township, but was never an aspirant for official honors. After selling his farm he moved to McLean and embarked in the grocery business, which he successfully carried on for ten years. On disposing of his store two years ago, he came to Bloomington and purchased his present home, where he is now living retired, enjoying a well-earned rest. He and his wife still hold membership in the Congregational church of McLean, where she always took an active part in Sunday-school work. Those who know them best are numbered among their warmest friends, and no citizens in the county are more honored or highly esteemed.

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**G**LEWIS CASEY is one of the most enterprising merchants of Bloomington, and although a young man, takes precedence of many whose years far outnumber his own, having gained a position of marked prestige by well directed effort, unabating energy and a laudable ambition,

guided by sound judgment and discretion. His course has ever been characterized by just regard for the ethics of commercial life, and his reputation in business circles is unassailable. He is quick of apprehension, and intricate commercial interests he comprehends in a moment. He is a typical representative of the progressive spirit of the west, and by the utilization of the opportunities which have come to him he has attained a prominence which indicates his merit and ability.

Mr. Casey is one of McLean county's native sons, his birth having occurred in Chenoa, January 29, 1868, his parents being Stephen and Sarah G. (Lyons) Casey, both of whom were natives of Ohio and came to Illinois about 1864. The father engaged in contracting and building throughout his business career. He learned his trade in Ohio when seventeen years of age, followed it in the Buckeye state until his removal to Illinois, and was identified with the building interests of Chenoa until 1880, when he removed to Bloomington. Many buildings of the latter city stand as monuments of his skill and handiwork, and he was numbered among the leading contractors, employing as high as twenty-five workmen. At length he put aside business cares, retiring to private life. Mr. and Mrs. Casey and a sister of our subject were among the first members of the Christian Science church in Bloomington, and have been largely instrumental in promoting its growth and interests.

In the public schools of his native town G. Lewis Casey began his education, which was continued in the Bloomington schools. He obtained a good practical knowledge, and then entered upon his business career as a salesman in the New York dry-goods



store in Bloomington, where he remained a short time. He then went to Peoria and clerked for two different firms for several years. He then went to Shipper & Block. After clerking for two years he was made floor-walker, and later he became trimmer. At length he resigned the latter position, and in 1896 established his present business under the name of the Blooming Cash Tea store, of which he is now sole proprietor. He located first at No. 418 North Main street, but as soon as the Hoblit building was completed he removed to the new block, being the first tenant at the large new store, No. 526 North Main street. His brother was associated with him in business for a short time, but in January, 1899, Mr. Casey purchased his interest, and has since conducted the business alone. He carries a large and complete line of coffees, teas and spices, and has one of the leading stores of the kind in central Illinois. He has built up a large and constantly growing trade, selling five thousand pounds of coffee per month, while his sales in teas and spices are proportionately great. His patronage has reached such dimensions that he now employs a number of men in the store and has four wagons to deliver the goods. The commodities which he handles are of an excellent quality, his prices are moderate, and his business methods strictly honorable, so that he has built up a very large trade, and well deserves the liberal income which it brings to him.

On the 22d of November, 1892, Mr. Casey was united in marriage to Miss Maude King, a daughter of J. F. King, of Peoria, one of the best known contractors of that city and one of its oldest settlers. Her grandfather, Samuel King, went to that city when Indians still lived in the neighborhood.

He married Josaina McComsey, who was born in Hamilton county, Ohio, near Cincinnati, in 1806. Her people were well known to the pioneers of southern Ohio and Kentucky, and the little daughter was often trotted on the knee of Simon Kenton, one of the famous pioneers and Indian fighters of the latter state. She afterwards removed with her parents to Urbana, Ohio, where she became the wife of Samuel B. King, and with him went to Peoria in 1831, when that town contained but twelve families. They first settled at what was known as Little Detroit, a district now in the upper part of the city, which was named for the Indian, Little Detroit, who signed the treaty of peace there. In the spring of 1832, during the Black Hawk war, when it was reported that the chief was making his way toward Peoria, Mrs. King and some other women of the settlement were rowed across the river and left to take care of themselves, while the men remained to defend the town. All day Sunday Mr. King and other men worked, building Fort Clark. At length when it was known that they need fear nothing from the redmen, he went down the river to Pekin, swam across and spent two weeks in traveling over the country in search of his wife, who with her little child had wandered as far east as the Dillon settlement, a distance of thirty miles, subsisting on wild fruits and roots until she reached a pioneer home in which she could obtain shelter.

Mrs. Casey spent her girlhood days in the locality in which her grandparents had settled as pioneers. By her marriage she has become the mother of an interesting little daughter, Helen Lucile. Mr. and Mrs. King are members of the Christian church, and their many excellent qualities



have gained them the entree into the best homes of Bloomington. They have many warm friends in the city and are held in the highest regard by all. In all matters pertaining to the welfare and upbuilding of the city Mr. Casey takes a deep interest and lends his support and co-operation to all movements for the public good. In all probability many years of usefulness in business circles yet lie before him, but he has already attained a success that renders his example well worthy of emulation.

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CHESTER R. EWINS, who is now serving his second term as supervisor of Danvers township, is one of the young and enterprising farmers of McLean county, who, in connection with his farming, for some years has been engaged in buying and selling stock, in which line he has met with unqualified success. He is a native of the township, born April 2, 1866, and is the son of John A. and Melinda T. (Franks) Ewins, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume.

The boyhood and youth of our subject were spent on the home farm, and in the home school, and in the school of the village of Danvers, he received his education. At the age of twenty he left school and renting three hundred and eighty acres of land of his father, he began its cultivation. This land he continued to rent until his father's death, and in August, 1895, he purchased the interest of the other heirs, and is now the owner of three hundred and eighty acres of very valuable land, one of the best farms in Danvers township, and which is kept under a high state of cultivation. He is also the owner of eighty acres in Tazewell county. The Rock Creek Fair Grounds

are situated on his farm in Danvers township.

While always giving his personal attention to the cultivation of his farm, Mr. Ewins has engaged in other lines of business with profit to himself and the good of the community. In the spring of 1889 he purchased the meat market of Mr. Wagenbaugh, of Danvers, and for two years he ran the business in partnership with Louis Buescher, under the firm name of Buescher & Ewins. In 1891 he purchased his partner's interest and continued the business alone until the spring of 1899 when he sold it to August Habecker. The meat market was run as an adjunct to the stock business, which was commenced about the same time. In the latter line he has purchased largely in Danvers and surrounding country, and being an excellent judge of stock he has succeeded where many others have failed. The farming community have confidence in him and trust him as regards prices, knowing that they will receive all the market will allow.

On the 5th of September, 1888, Mr. Ewins was united in marriage with Miss Etta Barrett, who was born July 10, 1868, in McLean county, and daughter of John and Mollie Barrett, the former a native of Indiana, and the latter of Ohio. By this union were two children: Lester B., born July 23, 1889; and Glenn E., October 23, 1892. The mother of these children passed away November 10, 1896, and on the 11th of November, 1897, for his second wife Mr. Ewins married Miss Ada Wright, also a native of McLean county, born February 15, 1873, and daughter of A. S. and Martha Wright, natives of Ohio, but who now reside in Kansas.

Mr. Ewins has always taken an active interest in political affairs, and has been a

Republican from his youth up, the principles of the party being instilled in him by his father and confirmed by his reading and observation in mature years. For three consecutive years he served as assessor of his township, and was school director for four years. In 1897 he was nominated and elected supervisor of his township, and in the spring of 1899 he was re-elected to the same position. He has made a valuable member of the board, and has served on some of the most important committees. He takes kindly to the office which was so long and ably filled by his father, and looks closely after the interests of the people of his township and the county in general. Religiously he is identified with the Cumberland Presbyterian church of Danvers, and his wife is also a member of the same body. Both are active in the work of the church, and have the interest of the cause at heart. Socially they are held in high esteem.

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**G**EORGE ARMBRUSTER, JR., a well-known grocer of Bloomington, is acknowledged to be one of the most wide-awake and enterprising business men of the city. His ability, industry and upright methods have gained for him an enviable reputation, and his popularity is established on a firm basis—that of his own well-tested merit.

A native of Bloomington, Mr. Armbruster was born August 27, 1860, and is a son of George and Catherine (Wool) Armbruster, natives of Germany who came to Bloomington when young and were married in this city, where they still continue to make their home. For a time the father was employed as yardmaster by the Illinois Central Railroad Company; later was with a bus line;

but for the past forty years has driven a baggage and mail wagon. Both parents hold membership in the German Catholic church. Of their nine children, seven have lived to reach man and womanhood.

Our subject was educated in the German and city schools of Bloomington, and thus acquired a good knowledge of both English and German. Learning the trade of a blacksmith with Louis Matern, he followed that occupation for a number of years, and for six and a half years he was a member of the No. 2 fire department, during which time there were a number of very destructive fires, including the Bloomington Store, electric light plant, and the buildings of Boyce & Sons, Johnson & Company, and Barnes. On resigning his position with the fire department on the 1st of July, 1894, Mr. Armbruster opened a grocery store at the corner of Park and Empire streets, buying an old-time grocery and fitting it up with a new and well-selected stock. From the beginning his trade has rapidly increased until it has assumed extensive proportions.

In May, 1894, Mr. Armbruster married Miss Helen Schueth, of Bloomington, and to them have been born two children, Flora and Francis. The parents are both members of the German Catholic church, and are held in high regard by all who know them.

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**J**OHAN L. SCOTT, who is now living retired at his pleasant home just outside the corporate limits of Heyworth, has achieved a comfortable competence by his own unaided exertions, and is, in fact, a self-made man, starting out in life with nothing but youth in his favor, and his endowments of fine health, a vigorous muscle,

and a clear, cool brain. After all, a man possessing these need fear nothing; with a determination to succeed, success is his almost from the start, although it may be that years of patient waiting and hard toil are necessary before his endeavors are crowned with the full measure of success.

A native of Ohio, Mr. Scott was born near Urbana, Champaign county, January 26, 1836, and is a son of Zachariah Scott, whose birth occurred in Fleming county, Kentucky, in 1800. The grandfather, James Scott, was born in Virginia, while his father was a native of Scotland, and one of the early settlers of the Old Dominion. At an early day James Scott left Virginia and removed to Kentucky, becoming one of the pioneers of Fleming county. In 1808, he went to Champaign county, Ohio, where in the midst of unbroken forest he cleared and developed a farm. The father of our subject there grew to manhood and married Miss Maria Lake, a native of Virginia, and a daughter of Captain Thomas Lake, who was lost at sea. After his death the family removed to Ohio. After a short marriage life, Mrs. Scott died, and the father of our subject then wedded her sister, Miss Mary P. Lake, who became the mother of John L. After farming for some years in Ohio, Mr. Scott brought his family to this state in 1854 and settled on a farm in Randolph township, McLean county, where he spent his last years, dying March 18, 1861. His second wife is still living, a hale old lady of eighty-four years, and makes her home with a daughter in Heyworth, and yet does all her own housework. To them were born thirteen children, of whom twelve, five sons and seven daughters, grew to man and womanhood, but two sons and three daughters are now deceased.

John L. Scott was a young man of seventeen years when he came with his parents to this state, and his early education, acquired in the common schools of Ohio and McLean county, was supplemented by five months of study in the Wesleyan University, at Bloomington. He remained with his father until twenty-two years of age and then operated a rented farm for three years. In this county he was married, October 17, 1861, to Miss Catherine Orendorff, who was born here. Her father, Thomas Orendorff, a native of North Carolina, came to McLean county when a young man and was married in Blooming Grove to Miss Mary Malinda Walker, also a native of North Carolina, who when a child had come to this county with her father, William Walker, one of its pioneers.

Mr. and Mrs. Scott began their domestic life upon a rented farm near Heyworth, but in 1868, having traded for some land in Miami county, Kansas, they removed thither, where he raised two crops. In 1870 they removed to this county and finally sold their land in the Sunflower state. In 1882, Mr. Scott bought eighty acres of partially improved land in Bloomington township, and later added to it until he had one hundred and sixty acres of fine farming land, on which he erected a large and comfortable residence, good barns and other outbuildings, and planted an orchard and a grove of forest trees. This valuable and well improved farm was pleasantly situated within six miles of Bloomington. Selling it in 1895, he purchased one thousand acres of land in Pike county, Illinois, which was all under fence, and partially improved. He later exchanged that for a half section of land within four miles of Hastings, Nebraska. Since 1896 he has made his home near Hey-



worth, where he owns five acres adjoining the village, and is now practically living retired from active labor. Here he has a commodious and substantial residence, one of the best in Randolph township, and everything about the place testifies to the enterprising and progressive spirit of the owner, who is acknowledged to be one of the most thorough and skillful farmers of his community.

To Mr. and Mrs. Scott have been born five children, but two died in infancy. The others are as follows: Frank O., a business man of Heyworth, who is married and has one daughter, Leta; Charles O., a resident of Bloomington, who is married and has two children, Nina and Vesta, and Arthur, in business with his oldest brother in Heyworth, who is married and has two children, Marie and Olive. They have all been well educated and are now filling useful and honorable positions in life.

In his political affiliations Mr. Scott is a stalwart Democrat, and cast his first presidential vote for Stephen A. Douglas. He has the respect and confidence of his friends and neighbors, and is widely and favorably known throughout McLean county, where he has now made his home for over forty-five years, and with whose development and prosperity he has been prominently identified.

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**G**EORGE BUFFHAM. The life history of this gentleman, now one of the representative business men of Bloomington, has been somewhat varied through his connection with the development of the west, his naval service during the war of the rebellion and his activity in the affairs of commerce. He is a self-made man who

without any extraordinary family or pecuniary advantages at the commencement of life has battled earnestly and energetically, and by indomitable courage and integrity has achieved both character and fortune. By sheer force of will and untiring effort he has worked his way upward and now occupies a leading position among the honored and successful business men of McLean county.

A native of Rochdale, England, he was born on the 18th of November, 1840, a son of William and Eliza (Kirkpatrick) Buffham. His father was born in London and there learned the painter's trade. He removed to Rochdale before his marriage to Miss Kirkpatrick, who was born in York, England, of Scotch parentage. In 1850 he crossed the Atlantic to the United States, accompanied by his wife and six children, and in the fall of that year located in Kenosha, Wisconsin. The following year he removed to a farm in Milburn, Warren township, Lake county, Illinois, forty miles north of Chicago, purchasing the land on which he made his home until 1869, when he sold out and took up his residence in Racine, Wisconsin. He had operated his fields through the assistance of hired men, while he had taken up the profession of an optician, following it throughout the remainder of his life. He manufactured microscopes and telescopes, which were sold throughout the country, bringing him a wide reputation as a dealer in optical instruments. He died in 1872, and his wife departed this life in Racine, in June, 1897. In their native land they had held membership in the Baptist church, but after coming to the United States joined the Presbyterian church.

In the old time district schools George



Buffham was educated, and his boyhood days were spent in the usual manner of farmer lads of the period. He was twenty-one years of age at the time of the inauguration of the civil war; and in 1862 he joined Burnside's coast guards in the naval service. After three months, however, he was discharged on account of disability, his only active service having been the guarding of prisoners on the transports from Port Royal to Governor's Island. From New York he returned home, and in 1864 joined Company F, Thirty-ninth Wisconsin Volunteers, at Racine, under the one-hundred-days call. He went to Memphis, doing picket duty there most of the time, and, with others, was detailed on picket boats to guard the Mississippi river, running between Helena and Memphis. He underwent some trying experiences, and was on the picket line at Memphis when Forrest made his raid on them. His time expiring, he returned to Milwaukee in October, 1864, and was mustered out.

Mr. Buffham spent the following winter in Little Rock, Arkansas, as chief forage master of the cavalry division of the Seventh Army Corps, and had charge of and issued the forage to the division, being under the direct command of Charles F. Minhold, quartermaster and a member of the Third Regular Cavalry. Mr. Buffham remained at Little Rock until June 1, 1865, and then again visited his home, after which he went to Colorado. From the Missouri river he proceeded westward with mule teams, taking a stamp mill from Atchison to Central City, two months being required to make the trip on account of the heavy loads. He afterward went to Fort Lyon, where he engaged in putting up hay for the government until winter, when he removed to Canon

City, which place he made his headquarters for a year and a half. During that time he traveled quite extensively, spending some time in prospecting. In 1867 he went to Breckinridge, Colorado, and spent the summer in the placer gold fields, after which he returned by stage to Julesburg, Nebraska, and thence by rail to his home. Later he journeyed southward to Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas, spent the winter in Vinton, Iowa, and afterward went to Lawrence, Kansas, with the expectation of going to Colorado. Deciding otherwise, however, he went, instead, to Rochester, Minnesota, and in the autumn went to the lumber woods at Lake Pepin. The following spring and summer were spent at home, and in the fall he began working as fireman on the railroad, running between Savanna and Rock Island, Illinois. He was afterward located at Hannibal, Missouri, and Quincy, Illinois, and in 1871 came to Bloomington.

His brother was then engaged in the paint business here, and Mr. Buffham entered his employ, for in his youth he had learned the trade and was an excellent workman. He spent the year 1880 in St. Paul, but with that exception has been connected with the painting and decorating business in this city for the past twenty-eight years. After his brother's death he purchased the business in 1896, and has the leading painting and decorating house in Bloomington, furnishing employment to a large force of workmen during the busy season. He lives faithfully up to the terms of a contract, and the excellent work done by his representatives, combined with his honorable business methods, insures him a liberal patronage.

Mr. Buffham has been twice married. He first wedded Anna Haufler, of Bloomington,

ton, who died, leaving two children: Elmer, who possesses marked histrionic power and is now traveling with John D'Vorak, a successful actor; and George Clarence, who was a member of Troop B, First Illinois Cavalry, in the late Spanish-American war, and died at Lookout Mountain August 21, 1898. Mr. Buffham was again married January 1, 1893, his second union being with Miss Tillie Hartry, of Bloomington, who was born in 1855, a daughter of Edwin Hartry, an old and well known business man of this city. Mr. and Mrs. Buffham reside at No. 705 South Main street, where they have a very pleasant home. Our subject has earned for himself a reputation as a careful man of business, notably prompt and reliable in his dealing, and thereby enjoys uniform confidence and respect.

GEORGE W. PRIEST has throughout his active business life been prominently identified with the agricultural interests of McLean county, and is now the owner of four hundred and sixty acres of rich and valuable land on sections 11 and 12, Hudson township, and 6 and 7, Money Creek township. He is a man of keen perception, of great sagacity and unbounded enterprise, and in all his undertakings has been remarkably successful.

A native of this county, he was born on his father's farm on section 1, Hudson township, September 21, 1846, a son of Elijah and Rebecca (Hinthorn) Priest. His paternal grandfather was James Priest, who was born at Gaines Cross Roads, Virginia, on the farm where the battle of that name was fought during the civil war, his father owning the place at the time of his birth. Our subject's father was born in Muskin-

gum county, Ohio, September 10, 1812, and from there he came to McLean county, Illinois, in September, 1835, at which time there was but one frame house standing on the present site of the city of Bloomington. Most of this region was still in its primitive condition, and in the work of development and improvement he bore an active and prominent part. He first purchased a tract of twenty acres on section 1, Hudson township, of a Mr. Hall, one of the Hudson colonists, and forty acres from one who had entered it from the government. After residing upon that place for some six or seven years, he bought the farm now owned and occupied by our subject on section 12, Hudson township, where he made his home until his death, which occurred November 2, 1890. He was quite extensively and successfully engaged in general farming and stock-raising and acquired a handsome property, owning at one time nine hundred acres of valuable land which he placed under a high state of cultivation. Although he had no educational advantages in his youth, he made the most of his opportunities in life, and became a prominent and influential citizen, as well as one of the most prosperous men of his community. He held a number of local offices, including those of highway commissioner and school director; was an ardent Democrat in politics; and an earnest and consistent member of the Christian church. In his family were three children, namely: James S.; Sarah, deceased wife of William H. Walston; and George W., our subject.

The early life of George W. Priest was passed in much the usual manner of farmer boys of his day in this state, and he grew to manhood upon his present farm, where he has resided since he was one year old. He

worked with his father and brother until the former's death, when the property was divided. He now leases the greater part of his land, though he keeps considerable for the use of his stock, being engaged quite extensively in the stock raising industry. His specialty is black Angus cattle and each year he usually feeds some stock for market.

On the 12th of March, 1896, Mr. Priest led to the marriage altar Miss Ellen Priest, a distant relative and a daughter of Josiah and Sarah (Fleming) Priest, natives of Ohio. She was born and reared in Iroquois county, Illinois, and is the eldest in a family of five children, the others being Elwood, who is married and resides in Newton county, Indiana; Charles, who lives on the home farm in Iroquois county; Melissa, wife of Lee Buswell, of Newton county, Indiana; and Mattie, at home.

The Democratic party finds in Mr. Priest a stanch supporter of its principles, and for ten years he has most capably served as school director in his district. He is a progressive and public spirited man, who takes a deep interest in the welfare of the community and gives his support to every enterprise for the public good. He is both widely and favorably known and has a host of friends throughout the county.

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CHARLES J. McELWAIN, one of the leading and prominent decorators and painters of Bloomington, and the oldest, in point of business, in the city, was born near Salem, Illinois, June 10, 1842, and is a son of Rufus P. and Martha (Jennings) McElwain. The father was born in New York City soon after his parents landed on their emigration from Scotland to America. They located in Ohio, where he grew to

manhood and learned the carpenter trade. When about twenty-one years of age, he came to Salem, Illinois, where he worked at his trade for a short time, but after his marriage he opened a general store at that place, and successfully conducted the same for many years, finally selling out about 1880. He died July 12, 1888. The wife and mother died in 1862, leaving five children. She was born east of Centralia, Illinois, and was a daughter of Israel Jennings, who was from Kentucky. The father of our subject was an earnest member of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which the mother also belonged.

Charles J. McElwain acquired a good practical education in the common schools of Salem, and gained an excellent knowledge of business methods in his father's store. Leaving home in 1861, Mr. McElwain was employed as a clerk for several years, after which he learned the painter's trade at Aurora. After completing his apprenticeship he worked as a journeyman at different places until the fall of 1872, when he came to Bloomington. Two years later he started in business for himself as a contractor, and the first year or two employed only two men, but as the excellence of his work became known, his trade steadily increased, and during the busy season he now employs ten men. He has done the painting on many of the prominent business houses of the city, as well as residences, and also painted the Baptist church of Bloomington.

On the 17th of February, 1870, Mr. McElwain married Miss Elizabeth Oness, who was born in England, but when a child of seven was brought to this country by her parents, John and Harriett Oness. They have no children of their own but have an



adopted child, Frederick, who is now thirteen years of age and is the son of Mrs. McElwain's brother. Our subject and his wife are both members of Grace Methodist Episcopal church and are highly respected by all who have the pleasure of their acquaintance. It is through his own well-directed efforts, that Mr. McElwain has met with success in life. He never acts except from honest motives and in all his varied relations in business affairs and social life, he has maintained a character and standing that has impressed all with his sincere and manly purpose to do by others as he would have others do by him.

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JOHN E. WAKEFIELD, now living retired upon his fine farm adjoining the village of Heyworth, is one of Randolph township's best citizens, belonging to the class whose influence can be relied upon in support of any measure which tends to the elevation and advancement of the community. He is a representative of an old and honored family of this county, and his character and career show that he possesses the sterling qualities of pioneer stock.

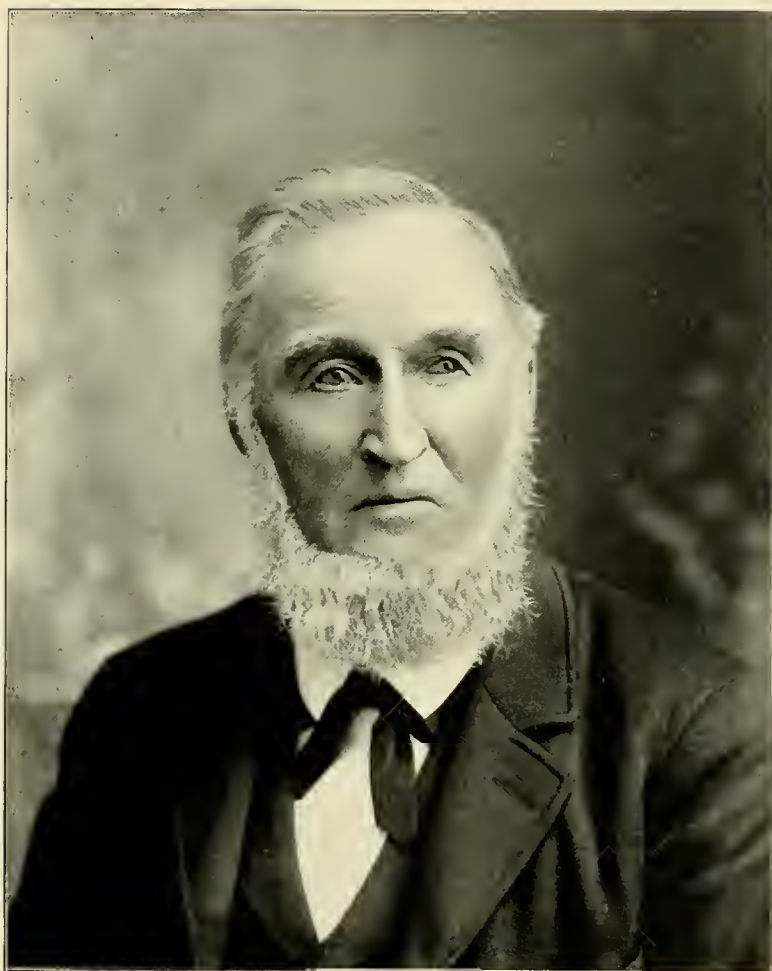
The Wakefield family is of Irish origin and was founded in Pennsylvania at an early day in the history of this country. Andrew Wakefield, the grandfather of our subject, was a native of that state and one of the first settlers of Hamilton county, Ohio, locating there when the state was a vast wilderness and Cincinnati was but a small village. Campbell Wakefield, our subject's father, was born in North Bend, Hamilton county, in 1804, and after reaching man's estate he was married there to Miss Margaret Elder, a native of Franklin county, Pennsylvania, who went to Ohio when a young

lady. Her father, John Elder, was a pioneer of Hamilton county, Ohio, but later returned to Pennsylvania, where his death occurred.

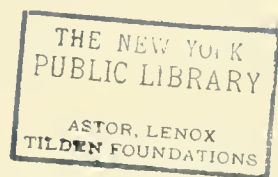
For some years Campbell Wakefield followed farming in Ohio, and in 1835 moved west with his family to Illinois, locating in what is now McLean county, on the same section of Randolph township where our subject now resides. They were accompanied by three other families from Ohio, who drove across the country with teams. This county was then an almost unbroken wilderness, and Mr. Wakefield bought two small claims of about one hundred acres in Randolph township, which he entered when the land came into market. Later at different times, he entered other tracts and became the owner of several hundred acres. A portion of this he improved and cultivated, making a nice farm, on which he spent his remaining days. He was one of the most enterprising and public-spirited men of his community and gave his support to every enterprise for the public good. When the Illinois Central Railroad was built through the county, he gave the undivided half of forty acres for the town, depot and side tracks of the road and lived to see quite a flourishing village—Heyworth—built upon his farm. He was one of the most prominent and influential citizens of the community and was honored with a number of local offices. He died June 5, 1887, at the ripe old age of eighty-three years, his wife in April —, 1891, at the age of eighty-six years, and both were buried in Heyworth cemetery, where a neat and substantial monument marks their last resting place.

John E. Wakefield, the only child of this worthy couple, was born in North Bend, Hamilton county, Ohio, May 10, 1828, and





JOHN E. WAKEFIELD.



was a lad of seven years when he was brought by them to this county. During his boyhood and youth he assisted his father in the development of the home farm and attended the public schools of the neighborhood, completing his education, however, at the Bloomington high school. On attaining his majority he took charge of a portion of the farm and business, and later cared for his parents during their declining years. After his father's death he succeeded to the estate.

Returning to Ohio, Mr. Wakefield was married in Clermont county, September 14, 1852, to Miss Catherine Turner, who was born in Indiana county, Pennsylvania, but was reared in Clermont county, Ohio. Her father, James Turner, was a native of Washington county, Pennsylvania, where he grew to manhood and was married in Indiana county to Miss Margaret McKinnie, a native of Franklin county, that state and a daughter of James McKinnie. The wedding journey of Mr. and Mrs. Wakefield was made by team from Ohio to their future home in McLean county, where they arrived about the 1st of October. To them have been born twelve children, of whom two died in childhood and nine are still living. In order of birth they are as follows: Margaret Belle married F. H. Hill and died in 1890, leaving four children; Alice is the wife of Newton J. Battershell, of Heyworth; James Campbell is a prominent citizen of Heyworth; Willie died at the age of five years; Porter T. is a stock raiser, dealer and farmer living near Bowling Green, Missouri; Minnie is the wife of Bruce A. Stewart, a farmer of McLean county; Frank L. is a physician of Heyworth; Jennie B. is the wife of Frank C. Gault, of Chicago; Mary is the wife of Dr. Joseph Noble, a

physician of McLean; Herbert L. is a farmer of McLean county; and Andrew McCoy is at home with his parents.

After his marriage, Mr. Wakefield purchased eighty acres of land three-quarters of a mile east of his present home, and a year later bought land adjoining the old Noble farm, where he operated for several years, returning to the old Wakefield homestead in 1887. In partnership with others, he has owned and operated about twelve hundred acres of rich and arable land, well-improved with good buildings, and has also given considerable attention to raising and feeding cattle, sheep and hogs. He is one of the most enterprising, energetic and successful agriculturists of his community.

Mr. Wakefield is an old Jacksonian Democrat who, on national issues, always supports that party, and cast his first presidential vote for Franklin Pierce. At local elections, however, he endeavors to support the man best qualified for the office, regardless of party ties. He is a friend of education and our public schools, and for twenty-one years was an efficient member of the school board and president of his district. In 1852, he and his estimable wife united with the Presbyterian church of Heyworth, of which his parents were original members, and he has served as deacon for some years, while Mrs. Wakefield also takes an active part in church work. For sixty-four long years he has watched with interest the development and upbuilding of the county, has seen the deer and wolves disappear, the railroads, telegraph and telephone introduced, and hamlets grow into thriving villages and towns. In the work of progress and advancement he has ever bore his part, and on the rolls of the county's most honored pioneers his name should be found

among the foremost. Upright and honorable in all the relations of life, he is always mentioned as one of the invaluable and useful citizens of the community.

JOHN P. RISSER, residing on section 3, Danvers township, has a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres, all of which is under cultivation save ten acres, which is in timber. He was born in Delaware county, Indiana, March 13, 1854, and is the son of Christian and Barbara (Zimmerman) Risser, the former a native of Alsace, France, and the latter of Baden, Germany.

When a young man of twenty years, Christian Risser left his native land for the United States, and for ten years after his arrival made his home in Butler county, Ohio, where he worked for various parties, principally at farm work, by the month. He then went to Delaware county, Indiana, where he met and married Barbara Zimmerman, by which union thirteen children were born—John, Anna, Joseph, Christian, Fannie, Barbara, Jacob, Samuel, David, Lena, Benjamin, Peter and Andrew. Of these Joseph and Andrew are deceased.

Christian Risser is the son of Captain John Risser, an officer in the French army under the great Napoleon. His father was driven into Switzerland by the Catholics. Christian Risser remained in Indiana about ten years engaged in farming. In 1858 he came to Illinois and located in Woodford county, where he purchased land and engaged in farming and stock-raising. He is now living retired in the city of Eureka, and is the owner of three hundred and thirty acres of land in Woodford county, six acres in the corporate limits of Eureka, and one

hundred and seventy acres in Arkansas, all but ten acres of which is in cotton lands.

The subject of this sketch was four years old when the family located in Woodford county, and in the public schools of that county he received his education, both in the German and English languages. He remained with his parents until he reached his majority, and for five years after he cultivated a part of his father's land, and also ran a thresher and corn-sheller during the season.

In February, 1879, Mr. Risser was united in marriage with Miss Phebe Miller, a native of McLean county, born May 8, 1860, and daughter of Jacob Miller, a native of Baden, Germany. By this union three children have been born: Leonora B., born in March, 1881; Ella M., in August, 1882; and Elmer B., December 28, 1886. All are yet remaining at home, the latter at present being a student in the district school in Danvers township.

After his marriage Mr. Risser remained in Woodford county for six years, engaged in farming on one hundred and ten acres of land in Montgomery township. He then moved to Mackinaw, Tazewell county, Illinois, where he engaged in the agricultural implement business for two years. In 1887 he moved to the village of Danvers, and in partnership with J. A. Ewins engaged in the same line of business. This continued until 1893, when he sold his interest to Mr. Ewins and Christian Straubhar and purchased the farm of one hundred and sixty acres where he now resides. In connection with his farming, in 1898, he took up the business of manufacturing incubators, in which line he is meeting with gratifying success. He is a practical farmer, one who thoroughly understands his business, and in



connection with stock-raising he cannot fail of that success which his industry and enterprise warrants.

In politics Mr. Risser is a Democrat, and while residing in the village of Danvers was usually a member of the town board. He was also a member of the school board for three years. He is a member of the Mennonite church, as is also his wife.

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JOHN ANDERSON, car inspector in the Chicago & Alton Railroad shops at Bloomington, and one of its most prominent Swedish-American citizens, was born on the 8th of November, 1843, in the extreme northern part of Sweden, a son of Andrew and Marian (Johnson) Anderson, who are still living in that country. The father was a farmer throughout his active business life, and both he and his wife are faithful members of the Lutheran church.

Our subject was educated in the Lutheran schools of his native land, which he attended about three months out of the year. When about thirteen years of age he removed with his parents to Mariastadt, in central Sweden, and continued to assist his father in his farming operations there until his emigration to America. In 1866, at the age of twenty-three years, he bade good-bye to his parents, friends and native land and sailed for the new world. Before coming to Illinois he spent some time in three or four states working as a farm hand, and later was in the employ of one farmer in Macoupin county, Illinois, for five years, during which time he became thoroughly familiar with our language. In 1873 he returned to Sweden and remained there until 1880, being employed as a clerk in a large co-operative store, of which his brother

was manager. The company also dealt in grain.

In 1880 Mr. Anderson again landed on the shores of the United States, and this time he located in Bloomington, Illinois, since which time he has been outside of the corporation but twice. Entering the employ of the Chicago & Alton Railroad Company, he first worked at building and repairing trucks for two years; then did night work, at which time he was his own boss; and was subsequently made car inspector, which business he has since so creditably and acceptably filled. He is now one of the oldest men in point of service in his department and one of the most highly esteemed, both by employers and employees.

In 1883 Mr. Anderson married Mrs. Charlotte Peterson, who was born and reared in Sweden, and by her former marriage has two children, Eleanora and Elmer. The children born to our subject are Oscar E., now fourteen years of age; Frederick, thirteen; Chester, nine; and Mary, six. Besides his pleasant home at No. 106 Stevenson street, Mr. Anderson owns a house at No. 125, the same street, which he rents. He is one of the best known and most prominent men in Swedish circles in the city, and he is held in high regard by all who have the pleasure of his acquaintance.

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JOHN H. BRIGHT, the well known and capable superintendent of the Manufactured Ice and Cold Storage Company, of Bloomington, was born in Danville, Kentucky, December 12, 1864. His father, William M. Bright, was born in Lincoln county, Kentucky, October 23, 1835, a son of John and Elizabeth (Morrison) Bright,

who spent their entire lives in that state. In their family were nine children. Reared upon the home farm in his native state William M. Bright began his education in the common schools of the neighborhood and later attended an academy at Stamford, Kentucky, completing the course in 1857, in which year he first came to Illinois with his brother-in-law, James Givens. Together they purchased section 2, Normal township, McLean county, which they continued to hold until 1865. Returning to Kentucky Mr. Bright did not locate here until 1861, and five years later he took up his residence in Normal, where he owns one hundred acres of land. He gave his attention principally to the raising of small fruit until 1882, when he imported four French draft mares, and for a time engaged in horse breeding. Previously he had gained quite a reputation as a breeder of Kentucky saddlers. In 1864 he was married near Danville, Kentucky, to Miss Mary E. Bruce, who was born there November 2, 1842, a daughter of Henry and Mary E. (Pope) Bruce. Seven children were born of this union, but one son died at the age of five years. Those living are: John H., James G., Mary E., Bruce, Fannie M. and Reuben S.

During his infancy, John H. Bright, our subject, was brought by his parents to McLean county, and he was educated in the public schools of Normal and the State Normal University, completing a three years' course in 1888. He remained on the home farm with his father until he was married, May 4, 1888, to Miss Mary E. Irvin, of Normal, a daughter of Joseph Irvin. He then removed to Pomona, Los Angeles county, California, and was with the Pomona Wine Company for two years,

rising to the position of foreman of a department in that time. On account of the failing of his wife's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bright returned to Bloomington at the end of that time, and as William Irvin was then superintendent of the street railroad company of this city, our subject entered the employ of the same, with which he was connected until June 1, 1891. He was then offered his present position by John T. Lillard, president of the Manufactured Ice & Cold Storage Company, and for the past eight years has efficiently and satisfactorily served as superintendent of the same. The plant has a capacity of twenty-five tons of ice per day and the company finds a ready sale for all they can manufacture. Here employment is furnished sixteen or eighteen men when running a full force, and of these Mr. Bright has charge.

Our subject and his wife have an interesting family of three children, namely: Zua, William M. and Marie. The parents both hold membership in the Christian church of Normal, and are held in high respect and esteem by a large circle of friends and acquaintances. Politically, Mr. Bright is identified with the Democracy, and socially is a member of Etna Lodge, No. 107, K. P., of Pomona, California.

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PHILIP W. RHODECAP, deceased, was a well-known citizen of Danvers township, where he engaged in farming and stock raising for many years. He was a native of Virginia, and was born June 12, 1821. In early childhood he moved with his parents to Indiana, where his boyhood and youth were spent, and in the common schools of that state he received his education. He learned the carpenter's trade,

which he followed for a time, and about 1839, came to McLean county, and made his home with his uncle, Mahlon Wilson, with whom he remained until his marriage, July 6, 1843, to Miss Mary E. Ludwick, a native of Ohio, born March 23, 1825. They became the parents of eight children: Candace C., who died at the age of thirty-two years, was the wife of A. L. Bourquin. She was the mother of four children. Mary B. is the wife of Andrew Cook, of Danvers, and they have five children. Edward R. died at the age of three years. James F. is now living in Mississippi. Louvina is making her home in Woodruff, Illinois. Henry M. died in childhood, as also William C. and George S.

After his marriage Mr. Rhodcap moved to Peoria, Illinois, where he resumed work at his trade, but only remained there, however, a comparatively short time, and returning made his home in Danvers township until his death, January 2, 1899. His wife died many years previous, September 13, 1869. He was quite a prominent Democrat of his township, and for very many years served as constable, and for twelve years was a justice of the peace. An active and influential member of the Cumberland Presbyterian church, he took great interest in its work, serving his church as an elder for many years. He also took great interest in the Sunday school work, and was a teacher for many years. A true Christian man, he died as he lived, full of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

of one of the old and honored families of McLean county, his parents being John and Rebecca (Hinthorn) Trimmer. The father was born on the 16th of May, 1823, in Hunterdon county, New Jersey, of which state the grandfather, John Trimmer, Sr., was also a native. In 1826 the latter brought his family to Illinois and was one of the first to locate in McLean county. For a year or two he made his home in what is now Towanda township, and then removed to Money Creek township, where he resided until his death.

Being only three years old when brought to this county, John Trimmer, Jr., here grew to manhood, and in Money Creek township, he was married, July 2, 1846, by Rev. James Bishop, to Miss Rebecca Hinthorn. After his marriage he located on section 24, Hudson township, where he spent the remainder of his life engaged in agricultural pursuits, dying there August 10, 1882. His wife, who still survives him, now makes her home in Normal. Of the children born to them our subject is the oldest: Jay, born March 17, 1849, is a resident of Gibson City; George, born March 28, 1851, died April 20, 1863; Samuel, born June 1, 1853, is a resident of Seneca, Kansas; Stephen, born August 1, 1855, died August 20, 1892; Amanda E., born March 10, 1860, died April 28, 1863; Daniel T., November 27, 1865, lives in Exeter, Nebraska; and Etta, born September 8, 1867, is the wife of Albert Thomas, of Pleasant Hill, Illinois.

Upon the home farm Scott Trimmer grew to manhood, and was educated in the common schools. He was married November 20, 1873, the lady of his choice being Miss Catherine A. Forney, who was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, June 4,

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SCOTT TRIMMER, an energetic and successful farmer residing on section 13, Hudson township, was born in that township June 13, 1847, and is a representative



1849, a daughter of Michael and Rachel (Horner) Forney, also natives of the Keystone state, in whose family were ten children. Although Mr. and Mrs. Trimmer have no children of their own, out of the kindness of their hearts they have given a home to five, including Pearl C. and Enos F., who are still with them.

Before his marriage Mr. Trimmer purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land where he now lives, and has since added to it until he has a fine farm of one hundred and ninety acres on section 13, Hudson township, and also has an additional tract of twelve acres on section 18, Money Creek township. He has made most of the improvements upon his place, and in connection with general farming he carries on stock-raising and feeding to a considerable extent, keeping a good grade of all kinds of stock. For the success that he has achieved in life he deserves great credit, for he has gained a comfortable home and competence by his own good management and the assistance of his estimable wife. She is a consistent member of the German Baptist church. In politics Mr. Trimmer is a Republican, and has served for five years as school director in his district.

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**F**RED HARTLEY, who is now living a retired life in the city of Bloomington, was born in the city of Santiago, Chili, South America, January 11, 1833, and is the son of William and Doloris (Conde) Hartley. The former was born in Yorkshire, England, January 4, 1804, and when a young man left his native country, going to South America and locating in Santiago, where he engaged in the hardware business. He there married Doloris Conde, who was of Spanish origin.

About two months after the birth of our subject, he moved with his family to Valparaiso, where he was in business for about nine years. He then visited his native land, and on his return sent our subject to England to be educated. Making his home with an uncle, a brother of his father, who was residing in Halifax, Yorkshire, he attended school at Walton-on-the-Hill, which was about three miles from Liverpool. The Hartley family was an old and well known family in Yorkshire, where many of its members were engaged in merchandizing and manufacturing.

Young Hartley attended school at Walton-on-the-Hill, for about three years, when his father and family came to England and made their home in Liverpool. Meeting his parents in that city, he remained with them and there continued his studies until he was sixteen years old. The family came to the United States and located in Alton, Illinois. There the death of the mother occurred, and soon after the father removed to St. Louis, and later returned to Valparaiso, South America, but subsequently moved to San Francisco, California, where he died in November, 1865, leaving one daughter, Mrs. Lovinga, living in Bloomington, and one daughter, Mrs. Dimmock, in St. Louis. The husband of the latter is on the staff of the St. Louis Republican. Two children died in Valparaiso.

While residing at Alton, our subject learned the carpenter's trade, at which he worked in that city for nearly nine years. He married in Alton, September 17, 1854, Miss Mary Katherine Wilson of that city. By this union five children were born: Bernard H, is now living in St. Louis, Missouri. Fannie is the wife of A. G. Hawley, of Houston, Texas, and they have one



daughter, Edna. Cora is the wife of E. L. Hawley, of Rochester, New York, Doloris, who is a twin sister of Cora, married William T. Hemstead, by whom she has five sons, Robert, Albert, Bernard, Harry and Earle. They reside in Bloomington. Ivis married Claude VanVelzer, and they have one son, Clarence. They also make their home in Bloomington.

In 1857, Mr. Hartley came to Bloomington, and for a short time worked at his trade, and was then for thirteen years manager of a livery stable. He then resumed his trade, but had been at work comparatively a short time when he fell from a building on the square, and the next day read his obituary notice in the paper. After his recovery, he was employed on the police force of the city for a time, and then engaged in teaming. In 1886 he gave out physically, and it was predicted that he never would be any better. He has since served as tax collector of the city for three terms, but is living practically a retired life. Fraternally he is a member of Evergreen City Lodge, No. 265, I. O. O. F., of which he has been permanent secretary for fifteen years. From the organization of the party in this state, he has been a consistent Republican. Socially he is held in high esteem.

LOUIS E. SKAGGS, an enterprising farmer residing on section 35, Danvers township, is a native of McLean county, and was born about one mile from his present residence, August 18, 1859. He is a son of Dr. J. M. and Sarah A. (Young) Skaggs, both of whom are natives of West Virginia. The paternal grandparents, John and Sarah (Campbell) Skaggs, were also

natives of West Virginia. Robert Campbell, the father of Sarah Campbell, was a native of Ireland, who came to the United States when a young man, starting in life as a day laborer, and dying worth four hundred thousand dollars. The Skaggs are of Welsh descent and were early settlers of West Virginia. John Skaggs, the paternal grandfather, died at the age of ninety-seven years. His wife lived to be eighty years old. Of their family of nine children, but two now survive, Dr. J. M. and Mary C., wife of James Minner, of Browne county, Kansas.

Dr. J. M. Skaggs was educated in the common schools of West Virginia, and remained at home assisting in farm work until twenty-two years of age, when he studied chemistry, and practiced for a time in his native county. In 1851 he married Sarah A. Young, daughter of James Young, of West Virginia, and by this union there were eight children: Elizabeth, who married Henry L. Bell, but died at the age of twenty-eight years; Andrew, H., who died when twenty-three years old; Amanda S., who died at the age of twenty-four years old; Louis E., the subject of this sketch; Orlando P, a farmer of Danvers township; Sarah E., who married Samuel Willerton, of Danvers township; Martha C., who married C. S. Jarrett, of Dale township; and John F., of Danvers township. In 1875 the mother of these children died, and for his second wife the Doctor married Elizabeth Little, a native of Ohio.

After coming to McLean county, in 1857, Dr. Skaggs purchased one hundred and eighty acres of land in Danvers township, and as his means increased, added to his possessions, until he has now some nine hundred and fifty acres. In July, 1895, he

moved to the village of Danvers, and is now living a retired life. In politics he is a Democrat, and religiously a Baptist. He has served as deacon in the church for over forty years, and has been quite active in Sunday-school work, and is now superintendent of the Baptist Sunday-school.

LOUIS E. SKAGGS, an enterprising farmer, residing on section 35, Danvers township, is a native of McLean county, and was born about one mile from his present residence, August 18, 1859. He is a son of Dr. J. M. and Sarah A. (Young) Skaggs, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume. In the district schools of Danvers township he received his primary education, which was supplemented by a three-years' course at Dennison University, Granville, Ohio. On completing his course at the university, he spent one year in traveling through the west, visiting Utah, Colorado, Oregon, California and Washington, but spending most of his time in Fresno, California.

After his return home Mr. Skaggs was married April 7, 1881, to Miss Charity Vance, who was born in Woodford county, Illinois, December 19, 1859, and daughter of Peter H. Vance, a sketch of whom appears on another page of this work. After his marriage, he commenced farming in Danvers township, renting eighty acres of land from his father for a couple years. He then purchased one hundred and sixty acres of David Stephenson, of Danvers, Illinois, to which he immediately removed, and where he has since continued to reside, engaged in stock-raising and farming. For three years, however, he was engaged in buying and shipping stock, in which line he

met with a reasonable degree of success. Since abandoning the latter business, he has given special attention to stock-raising, and feeds and ships the stock to Chicago each year.

Mr. Skaggs has given considerable attention to local politics, and gives his support to the Republican party, his first presidential vote being cast for James A. Garfield. He has served as township school trustee for fifteen consecutive years, and has also held the office of commissioner of highways for twelve years. He is still serving in the latter office, and has made something of a specialty of good roads. As an evidence of their confidence and trust in his good judgment, he has been elected and served six years as president of the Highway Commissioners Association of McLean county. He was appointed a delegate by Governor Tanner to the International Farmers' Congress of North America, at Fort Worth, Texas, in which were delegates from Canada and the South American countries, as well as the United States. In that congress he took an active part, and was greatly benefited by attendance and exchange of ideas on the part of those in attendance. Mr. Skaggs is also president of the McLean County Farmers' Institute, in which he is also quite active, and one of its most influential members. Religiously he is identified with the Baptist church of Danvers, of which his wife is also a member.

While comparatively a young man, Mr. Skaggs has shown himself thoroughly enterprising, ready to take hold and advocate anything that will best advance the interests of the farming community. He is a farmer from choice, having a love for his calling, and believes there is nothing too good for those following such an honorable life. An

educated farmer, one who is thoroughly posted on the various issues of the day, can exert an influence as great as one in any other calling or profession, and he believes in the farmer securing his just rights. He is well known throughout the county and state, and is justly regarded as one of the rising men.

**G**EORGE W. FREEMAN, who is now living a retired life in the city of Bloomington, was for many years one of the best known farmers of McLean county. He was born in the city of Oswego, New York, December 27, 1827, and is the son of Moores and Orinda (Janes) Freeman, and the grandson of Thomas Freeman, who was a Revolutionary patriot, of whom many reminiscences have been handed down. Of his grandfather our subject himself writes:

"Our grandfather, Thomas Freeman, of Woodbridge township, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, was a Revolutionary patriot. He was scout for Washington while at Valley Forge and Scotch Plains. While he was from home the British and Hessian soldiers often pillaged his house, and my uncle, John Freeman, the eldest of the family, often told me he well remembered the red-coated soldiers driving away all their cattle to their boats on the Raritan river for the use of the British army on Staten Island. Our grandfather was twice a prisoner under the notorious Cunningham and confined in the old Sugar House, now covered by the Brooklyn bridge, in New York city. While there he was often obliged to knock down his own neighbor for attempting to steal his rations,

"Our grandfather was a waterman and ran a market shop which he owned before

and after the revolution, consequently he was a strong, athletic man. When he was exchanged and came home from the prison he was so covered with lice that he would not go into his house until he had washed himself. This he did out in the bushes near his residence, and obtained fresh clothing, which was brought to him by his faithful old slave, Sukey. While he was at home this time he slept for six weeks in an out-door cellar. His Tory neighbors would see him about his place in the day time and inform the British, who would come and ransack his house and carry away provisions and abuse our grandmother because they could not find him.

"But by and by he became careless about his safety, and the third night he slept in his house he was taken prisoner and sent on board the prison-ship near Wallabout, in New York harbor. It was a terrible old hulk, and he suffered greatly.

"Before he had been there two weeks, he escaped one night by swimming away, reaching Long Island and traveling nights and lying concealed in the daytime. He managed to cross to Staten Island and thence to Perth Amboy, reaching his home in the night. Concealing himself in the daytime, he managed to escape the vigilant eyes of his tory neighbors until peace was declared.

"During this time his house was raided by soldiers under a Hessian officer in search of forage and plunder. He was in bed with our grandmother when the house was raided. He slipped out of bed catching his small clothes and hid behind a door which opened near the head of the bed. The brutal officer routed out our grandmother and asked for her husband. She said he was away from home, but as his



tory neighbors had seen him around that day, the officer would not believe her. He felt in the bed and found two warm places and then in broken English upbraided her and said she lied.

"And so she did lie, but I guess she was forgiven for that sin under the circumstances. Grandfather was a great partisan and so active they were determined to capture him. Even after all the soldiers had left with their plunder this officer remained, as he had been ordered to capture him, and once more coming into the bedroom and feeling in the bed, he muttered quite an oath in Dutch and took hold of the door and there saw grandfather in his shirt with his clothes in his hands. He drew his sword and said, 'You are my prisoner.' He commanded him to come along with him at once. He was obliged to obey by force of arms and had to put on his small clothes as he went along, grandmother crying and begging his captor for a little mercy. This diversion enabled him to put on his clothing and was prodded by the officer with his sword and made to march before him towards his troop, who were quite a distance in advance and nearly out of sight.

"As grandfather had been three times a prisoner and knew all the horrors of prison life under the British, he was determined not to go there again if he could avoid it.

"As he was being prodded by the officer's sword to hasten his tardy steps, he passed by an old woodshed with the stakes in it. He seized one of them, and turning, stood on the defensive. The officer endeavored to cut him down with his sword, but our grandfather was a sailor and knew how to handle a handspike or cudgel, and he warded off the blows of the officer's sword as best he could, saying the light horse that Wash-

ington sent out of his camp every morning to pick up any stragglers from the British army, would soon be along. After skirmishing some time, with grandmother wringing her hands and crying, our grandfather said to the officer: 'There they come now.' This caused the officer to turn his head, when grandfather, finding him off his guard, hit him on his head and felled him insensible to the ground.

"Then grandfather took off his garters and bound the officer's hands behind him, took the officer's sword, and stood guard over him till he recovered consciousness. Then he made the officer march before him to the house and kept him there until the light horse cavalry came along and took the prisoner to Washington's camp.

"At one time, our grandfather, with another patriot, was sent by Washington as a spy to the British fleet in New York harbor to ascertain when they intended to attack Amboy. They pretended to be tories, loaded a rowboat with a few sheep they had killed, and wanted to trade them off. They had their stories well rehearsed before they entered on the expedition. When they came within hailing distance, they were ordered to come to the vessel's side, and his neighbor was ordered below and examined by the officers in charge of the ship. After he came up, he was also put under guard, and our grandfather was taken below and examined.

"The examination was satisfactory and they accomplished their mission, which was to ascertain the time the British were going to attack Amboy. They returned to Washington and reported, but as his troops were so few he was not able to protect Amboy, and it was raided at the time they said it would be and nearly destroyed. Several



years after peace was declared, grandfather was in New York, near the old Fly market, when a foreigner rushed up to him, hugged him, and said in broken English: "You saved my life when you might have killed me with my own sword." He also made many demonstrations of gratitude. This man was the same Hessian officer who was his prisoner during the war. These, in brief, are some of the traditions handed down to me by my father and his eldest brother, Uncle John Freeman, who died in his eighty-ninth year and was buried in Woodbridge churchyard, where lie five generations of the Freeman family, whose ancestors came from England prior to Queen Anne's war and settled in Woodbridge, New Jersey and vicinity."

Moore's Freeman was born in New Jersey, near Perth Amboy, March 25, 1795, and with his father, Thomas Freeman, of whom mention has been made, moved to Herkimer county, New York, near Richfield Springs, his father there engaging in business and in trading. In that county he grew to manhood and married. His wife dying, he later was married, near Syracuse, to Miss Orinda Janes, who was a relative to Bishop Janes. She was born January 5, 1799. They later moved to Oswego, New York, where he engaged in contracting and building. From Oswego he moved with his family to Wolcott, Wayne county, New York, and continued contracting, and there his death occurred in August, 1838. He was an earnest and devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and died in the faith. His wife survived him many years, later removing to Illinois, where her death occurred in 1860. They were the parents of six children.

Mrs. Orinda (Janes) Freeman was the daughter of Timothy Janes, who was a native of Massachusetts, but was educated in Connecticut, and later moved to Vermont, where she, an only child, was born. From Vermont he moved to New York and located near Syracuse, where he engaged in contracting in partnership with his future son-in-law, the father of our subject. They had large contracts for putting in locks in the Erie canal, and followed the canal west.

The subject of this sketch was four years old when his parents moved to Wolcott, New York, and in that village he received his primary education. His father died before he was eleven years old. He early began life for himself, working in various places and at different kinds of employment. For a time he was at Clyde, New York, engaged in the manufacture of carriage laces, which soon went out of style. Starting west, with a view of bettering his condition in life, he stopped at Findlay, Ohio, in 1848, and there found employment at railroading.

On the 14th of November, 1850, Mr. Freeman was united in marriage with Miss Martha Anderson, daughter of Samuel Anderson, a farmer near Findlay, Ohio, who was born in the north of Ireland, of Scottish parents, and who ran away from his native country when seventeen years old on account of the rebellion then in progress, coming direct to the United States. By this union eight children were born, as follows: Douglas E., now a farmer of Funk's Grove township, who is married and has one son; Josephine, now Mrs. LaBarr, residing near Wichita, Kansas, and who is the mother of three sons; John A., a farmer and large stock raiser of DeWitt county, Illinois;

Schuyler B., who resides on our subject's farm in Bureau county, and who is married and has three daughters; George M., married, and with his wife and three children living in Bloomington; Owen C., living in Waukegan, Illinois; Calvin A., living on the home farm, and who is married and has four children; and Fred V., living in Chicago, and who is a railroad man.

After his marriage, Mr. Freeman remained in Findlay, Ohio, until 1853, when he went by the overland route to California, obtaining his outfit at St. Joseph, Missouri. When about one-third of the distance had been covered, he sold his outfit, and in company with Mr. Buckley, an ex-sheriff of Hancock county, Ohio, spent many days in hunting, bringing up at some camp of emigrants at night. He left Findlay March 5, 1853, and St. Joseph May 3, and arrived at their destination September 16 of the same year. He first stopped on Feather river, at the foot of the mountains, and near Marysville, and at once engaged in mining, at which he made considerable money, though he lost some in looking for better places. He remained in California until July, 1855, when he returned home by way of the Isthmus of Panama and New York, but on the way visited South America.

Soon after his arrival at Findlay, he made up his mind to come to Illinois and make this his future home. Selling his property in Findlay, he came to McLean county and settled in Randolph Grove, Randolph township, where, after renting for one year, he purchased some unimproved land and began his prosperous career, engaging in general farming and stock-raising. He went through the panic of 1857, when corn only brought ten cents a bushel, wheat thirty cents, and all kinds of farm produce

was in the same proportion. He pulled through and then went on to marked success, and at different times has owned a good deal of land in the township. His home farm in that township consisted of two hundred and fifty-five acres, in addition to which he owns a half section in Bureau county, Illinois, which is under the highest state of cultivation and well stocked.

Mr. Freeman remained on his farm in Randolph township until 1880, when, on account of impaired health, he rented the same and moved to Bloomington, where he now resides. Since coming to the city he has invested somewhat in real estate, and has owned a number of dwelling houses and other property. Wishing something to do, he at one time engaged in the grocery business, but not being congenial to him, he sold out, and with the exception of looking after his farms and other property, has lived a retired life.

Politically, Mr. Freeman is a Democrat, and while never an office seeker has held a number of local positions. While residing in Randolph township, he served several terms as a member of the board of supervisors, and was township collector for some years. During the civil war, he offered his services to his country, but on examination was rejected, on account of his health. He has always borne a good name among his neighbors, and has ever had their confidence. This was shown in his selection as conservator for two large estates, and also in his appointment as administrator of several estates. It is needless to say the duties devolving upon him in these various positions were honestly and conscientiously discharged. While residing on the farm, he was a member of the Randolph Grove Methodist Episcopal church, in which he served

as steward and trustee the greater part of the time, and also as superintendent of the Sunday-school for a time. He is now a member of the Grace Methodist Episcopal church, Bloomington, in which he has served as steward and trustee, and is now serving in the latter office. He was a member of the building committee in the erection of the present fine church, which is one of the finest in the country. He is a man of good business ability, and while conservative, believes in doing everything well. Mrs. Freeman is also a member and worker in the Methodist Episcopal church, and both are held in the very highest esteem, being true and faithful in whatever position called on to fill.

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**H** CLARENCE BALDRIDGE, the present efficient and popular supervisor of White Oak township, is a prominent business man of Carlock, where as a member of the firm of O'Hara, Baldridge & Company, he is quite extensively engaged in dealing in grain and coal. In business affairs he is energetic, prompt and notably reliable, and his success is due to his untiring labor and perseverance, directed by an evenly balanced mind and honorable business principles.

Mr. Baldridge is one of McLean county's honored sons, and a worthy representative of one of her most prominent pioneer families. He was born November 24, 1868, in White Oak township, on the farm belonging to his grandfather, William Baldridge. His parents, William J. and Caroline (Wright) Baldridge, were both natives of Adams county, Ohio, the former born October 13, 1839, the latter February 6, 1849. Our subject's paternal grandfather was a

native of Pennsylvania, and in early life removed to Ohio, where he made his home until coming to McLean county, Illinois, in 1852. Here he continued the occupation of farming, to which he had devoted his whole life, and died upon his farm in White Oak township, March 15, 1899, honored and respected by all who knew him. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Margaret Kane, died in 1867. All of their children are still living, the youngest being now fifty-six years of age. In order of birth they are as follows: Mary J., widow of William Ramsey, of White Oak township; Samuel, who is now living retired in Monmouth, Illinois; Martha A., who first married Robert Patterson, and after his death wedded Allan Hart, also deceased; James W., a ranchman, of Davenport, Texas; William J., father of our subject; and George T., a farmer of White Oak township.

William J. Baldridge, our subject's father, came with his parents to this county during his youth, and after reaching man's estate engaged in farming here until his election to the office of county treasurer in 1894, when he removed to Bloomington. Since his retirement from that office he has engaged in the real-estate and loan business in the city. He has been a recognized leader in public affairs, and is a man widely and favorably known throughout the county. His wife, who was a daughter of Samuel and Mary (Bayless) Wright, of Adams county, Ohio, died March 27, 1897. Our subject is the oldest of the nine children born of this union, six sons and three daughters, the others being Myrta, who died at the age of twelve years; Lucia I., now the wife of Emery Carlock, of the village of Carlock; Mary M. and William C., both at home with their father; Martha E. who died



at the age of a year and a half; Margaret, at home; Edith, who died at the age of six months; and John C.

H. Clarence Baldrige was reared upon the home farm on section 23, White Oak township, assisting his father in its operation and attending the common schools of the locality. For a year and a half he was also a student at Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, and took a commercial course at the Business College. On starting out in life for himself he engaged in farming upon his grandfather's place for a number of years, in the meanwhile teaching school through the winter months for about six years. During the last two years he operated both his father's and grandfather's farms, making a half-section of land, and as an agriculturist he met with excellent success. He became largely interested in the stock business, feeding cattle each year, but his specialty was the breeding of draft horses, of which he had one of the finest herds in the county, when he disposed of the business. In November, 1896, he bought an interest in the firm of O'Hara Brothers, but the following winter was devoted to school teaching, and he did not remove to Carlock until September, 1897, since which time he has given his attention exclusively to the grain and coal business. The firm are the only dealers in grain at that place and annually ship about two hundred car loads.

On the 1st of February, 1893, Mr. Baldrige was united in marriage with Miss Cora A. McCreight, who was born in Adams county, Ohio, January 18, 1872, and came to this county in 1885 with her parents, Joseph H. and Louisa (Dodds) McCreight. Our subject and his wife have two children: Marion C. and Lela G.

As a Republican, Mr. Baldrige takes

quite an active and prominent part in local politics, and immediately after coming to Carlock was placed on the township central committee. In April, 1899, he was elected to the office which he is now so capably filling, that of supervisor of his township, and since 1897 has also served as township trustee in a most acceptable manner. In his church relations he is a member of the United Presbyterian church of Carlock, of which body his wife is also a member.

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PERRY R. GRIFFITH, one of the oldest and most popular dentists of Bloomington, was born in that city, October 15, 1859, a son of John W. and Mary J. (Neff) Griffith, who are still numbered among its honored and highly respected citizens. His paternal grandparents were Charles S. and Cynthia (Priest) Griffith, natives of Wales and France, respectively, and early settlers of Ohio. The father of our subject was born in Ohio but was reared by an uncle in St. John's, Louisiana, his father having been killed when he was only three years old. He was educated in the south and remained there until eighteen years of age, when he returned to Ohio on account of his views on the slavery question. For some years he successfully conducted a pork-packing establishment in Cincinnati, but November 17, 1848, came to Bloomington and purchased a farm in Money Creek township, McLean county, where he operated for a few years. He then located in the city, and was employed as a grain buyer for Phillips, Denman & Company, traveling over the surrounding country in their interests as far north as Joliet and buying large quantities of grain,



He contracted for them and other parties for a number of years, but for the past few years has conducted a meat market in Bloomington. In early manhood he wedded Miss Mary J. Neff, of Bloomington, a daughter of James and Sarah Ann (Ham-mitt) Neff, the former of German, and the latter of Welsh descent. They moved here by wagon from Zanesville, Ohio, at an early day, when the south side of the city was still covered with timber. He purchased a farm two and a half miles south of Bloomington, but died soon after locating thereon. Both Mr. and Mrs. Griffith are members of the First Methodist Episcopal church, and are held in high regard by all who know them. The Doctor is the only one of their four children now living. Isaac Griffith, the great-great-grandfather of our subject, served in the Revolutionary war, and also in the war of 1812. In the latter war he had three sons serving with him. His son, John Wesley Griffith, was the father of Charles S. Griffith.

In the public and high schools of Bloomington, Dr. Griffith obtained a good practical education, and after leaving school entered the office of Dr. Campbell, in 1878, as a student of dentistry. He received his license in 1881, but remained in the office of Dr. Campbell as an assistant for five years, and then opened an office of his own at Leroy, this county, where his preceptor also made his start. Dr. Griffith practically had the entire trade of the town, and using that as a stepping-stone, he returned to Bloomington, in June, 1889, and opened an office in the Parke building, where he remained for some years, doing a large and profitable business. In the fall of 1893, he removed to the Eddy building, being one of its first and a permanent tenant. He is

justly numbered among the leading members of the dental profession in the city and enjoys an extensive and lucrative practice to which his skill and ability justly entitle him. Besides his own comfortable residence, he owns another house on South West street.

On the 19th of April, 1887, Dr. Griffith was united in marriage with Miss Bettie J. Henderson, of Bloomington, a daughter of Matthew Henderson, who is mentioned more fully in the sketch of J. F. Henderson on another page of this volume. They now have two children: Lucy and Paul. The Doctor attends and supports the First Presbyterian church, of which his wife is a member, and he belongs to Jesse Fell Lodge, K. P. He is quite prominent in professional and social circles and he has a host of warm and admiring friends in his native city.

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LEWIS P. WALLBERG. No better illustration of the characteristic energy and enterprise of the typical Swedish-American citizen can be found than that afforded by the career of this gentleman, who is now successfully engaged in conducting a grocery and meat market at the corner of McGowen and West Olive streets, Bloomington. Coming to this country with no capital except his abilities he has made his way to success through wisely-directed efforts, and he can now look back with satisfaction upon past struggles.

Mr. Wallberg was born in Laholm, Sweden, March 30, 1843, a son of Peter and Bettie (Lindblad) Wallberg, who spent their entire lives in that country. Our subject grew to manhood in his native land and was educated in Lutheran schools. His

first work was upon the home farm, and he was later employed in the steeleries near by. Subsequently he embarked in the cattle business with headquarters at Holmstad, and did a large and profitable business in buying and shipping stock.

Disposing of his interests in Sweden, Mr. Wallberg emigrated to America in 1880, and came direct to McLean county, Illinois, where he first found work as a section hand on the Chicago & Alton Railroad, remaining there until he became somewhat familiar with the English language. For three years he worked in the McLean County Coal Shaft, when that was a paying business, and he commanded good wages. His next position was in the grocery store of W. Stevenson & Son, in Bloomington, and during the five years he remained with that firm he acquired an excellent knowledge of the business. Having saved some money, he embarked in the grocery trade on his own account, opening a small store at No. 1409 West Olive street. As his business increased he enlarged his stock, and at the end of three years he was able to purchase a lot at the corner of McGowen and West Olive street, on which he erected a two-story brick building and also another only one story in height. He now occupies the ground floor of both buildings with his grocery and meat market. He carries a large and well selected stock of staple and fancy groceries and choice meats, and enjoys an extensive and lucrative patronage. Prosperity has surely smiled upon his well-directed efforts, for he now owns besides his business blocks other real estate on Olive and Purple streets, a house and farm in the country and a number of residences in the city. In his business he gives employment to four persons.

On the 13th of December, 1884, Mr.

Wallberg was united in marriage with Miss Carrie Gronquist, of Bloomington, who was born in Ockeobo, Sweden, and came alone to the new world on the same vessel as her future husband. To them have been born two children: Grace Blanch Mabel and Florence Matilda. They hold membership in the Swedish Lutheran church and occupy an enviable place in the esteem of all who know them. Mr. Wallberg takes quite a prominent part in Sunday school work, but has always kept out of politics. For the success that he has achieved here he deserves great credit, for he was not only a stranger in a strange land, but had no knowledge of the English language. He possessed, however, good business ability, sound judgment and a determination to succeed.

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SAMUEL WOODRUFF BAKER, deceased, was for years one of the well-known farmers and business men of the western part of McLean county. He was born in Westfield, Union county, New Jersey, May 11, 1830, and his early life was spent in farm labor, and his education secured in the common schools. He was the son of Thomas and Mary (Woodruff) Baker, both of whom were natives of New Jersey, and the parents of five children. Charlotte is now the wife of John Valentine, and they reside in Newark, New Jersey. Samuel W., the subject of this sketch, was second in order of birth. Mary L. is the wife of William H. Crisp, and they reside in Trenton, New Jersey. George W. married Adella Simpson, and their home is in Elizabeth, New Jersey. William A. married Theresa Crisp, now deceased, and his home is in Linden, New Jersey, on the old family



SAMUEL W. BAKER.

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homestead. Both parents are deceased, dying in their native state, while their remains were interred in Evergreen cemetery, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

The subject of this sketch continued on the home farm until he was sixteen years old, and then went to New York City to learn the mason's trade, at which he served a four-years' apprenticeship. On the 16th of March, 1853, he was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Cory, who was born in New York City, October 7, 1834, and daughter of Aaron and Betsey (Parker) Cory. They were both natives of Scotch Plains, New Jersey. They were the parents of nine children, of whom Mrs. Baker was sixth in order of birth. Of this number three sons are yet living: Noah, of Delphi, Indiana, who married Mary F. R. Jackson, but who is now deceased; Henry C. who married Alice Sutton, now deceased, of Holly Springs, Mississippi, and is now living in St. Louis, Missouri; and Aaron P., of Danvers, who married Emma B. Martin, of Delphi, Indiana. In early life, Aaron Cory, the father engaged in the safe business, but later engaged in farming.

To our subject and wife five children were born, of whom two died in infancy. Aaron T. died at the age of ten months. George H. was seven months old at the time of his death. Mary E. married Thomas A. Clark, of Elizabeth, New Jersey, who died November 15, 1897, at the age of thirty-one years, and whose death was mourned by many friends.

In 1860, Mr. Baker decided on coming to Illinois, and with his family located in the village of Danvers, McLean county, where he followed his trade until 1869, when he purchased a grocery and hardware store and carried on the business until 1876. He

then purchased the lumber business of J. M. Fordyce and carried that on for many years. Later he purchased a tile factory west of Danvers, and quite a settlement grew up around it. The railroad company also established a coaling station there, and named the station Baker's Siding. Mr. Baker had surveyed and platted a portion of his land which was named Woodruff, his second Christian name. The post office, which was secured about this time, was called Woodruff.

Mr. Baker came to McLean county in moderate circumstances, but was industrious and energetic, and was determined to succeed. Every business enterprise in which he engaged proved profitable, and after his removal to the country, he erected what was probably the finest farm residence in the township. He gave much of his attention to the raising of a high grade of stock, and in this line met with his usual success. He was a man of genial disposition, always ready to accommodate a friend or neighbor, and for this reason he made many close personal friends. His death, which occurred on Wednesday, May 15, 1895, was a sad loss to the community in which he had so long resided. The funeral services were held at the family residence on Friday after his decease, and were conducted by Rev. B. F. Lawrence, assisted by Rev. C. E. Watson. A quartette rendered the musical portion of the service, using some of the favorite hymns of the deceased. A very large concourse of people followed the remains to the beautiful Park Lawn cemetery, at Danvers, where they were laid to rest.

Mr. Baker was never an office seeker, and always preferred to give his time and attention to his business enterprises. For five terms, however, he served as township

trustee, to the satisfaction of all concerned. In politics he was a Prohibitionist. As a citizen, he was always ready to aid any enterprise of value to his adopted town and county, giving of his time and means to further all its interests. He was a good man, and his friends were stanch and true, and he was stanch and true to them. His wife is yet living on the farm where the last years of his life were spent, years of happiness with bright prospects for the future. She, too, has many friends, who esteem her for her good qualities of head and heart.

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JOHN W. COOK, A. M., LL. D., was born April 20, 1844, in Oneida county, New York. His parents were Harry De Witt and Joanna (Hall) Cook. The father served in the civil war and was made colonel of cavalry by brevet. He died at his home in Normal, Illinois, in 1873; the mother still lives in Normal. Besides the subject of our sketch there were three other children in the family: Frank L., an eminent lawyer, lately deceased; Adella, wife of Judge Alfred A. Sample; and Ida, wife of Frank W. Gove. In 1851 the family moved from New York state to McLean county, Illinois, settling at what was called "Oneida Crossing," about ten miles north of Bloomington. Here the boy, John W., received his first school training in a log school-house. The family removed to Kappa in 1853, and there he spent the remaining years of his boyhood. In winter he attended school; in summer he worked on a farm, clerked in a store, assisted his father as station agent for the Illinois Central Railroad, etc. Sometimes he worked at farming for eight or ten dollars a month. In

this way he learned the value of work, and gained a varied experience which was very helpful in preparing him to adapt himself to men and to circumstances in later years.

In the fall of 1862 Mr. Cook entered the normal department of the State Normal University. His course as a student was one of honor and success, and he graduated in 1865. For one year he was principal of schools in Brimfield, Peoria county, and in the fall of 1866 he was called back to Normal to take charge of the grammar department of the Model School. In 1868 he was chosen to fill the place of Professor Hewett in the Normal faculty during his leave of absence for one year.

On the return of Professor Hewett in 1869, the board appointed Mr. Cook professor of reading and elocution. This position he held until 1876, when he took charge of the work in mathematics and physics. He continued in this position till 1890, when, on the resignation of President Hewett, he was appointed head of the institution. During his administration the institution has enjoyed great prosperity, the work and its appliances have been enlarged in all directions, and two beautiful new buildings, one for the training school and the other for gymnasium and library, have been erected.

In the spring of 1899 President Cook resigned his position, after having been an instructor in the institution for thirty-three consecutive years. His resignation took effect July 1, 1899, when he assumed charge of the new State Normal School at DeKalb, Illinois.

In 1867 President Cook was married to Miss Lydia F. Spofford, of Andover, Massachusetts. She is a sister of the wife of General Charles E. Hovey, first principal

of the Normal University, and of the wife of Aaron Gove, superintendent of schools in Denver for the last twenty-five years. President and Mrs. Cook have two children, Miss Agnes S., born in 1873, now an instructor in the University of Illinois, and John L., born in 1874, and now a student and teacher of music in Chicago. President Cook has been a member of the Unitarian church in Bloomington for many years. He has always been an active and earnest member of the Republican party in politics, but never has taken a prominent place as a partisan politician.

President Cook has won a high place among the educators of the nation. His clearness, ability and force as an instructor, his skill as an administrator of school affairs, and his power as a writer and lecturer on educational topics, have combined to give him a prominence and reputation which few reach. For several years he was editor and co-proprietor of the Illinois Schoolmaster, a teacher's journal of high standing. He has been too busy to write many books; but, in connection with Miss Cropsey, of Indiana, he prepared a popular series of school arithmetics, which Silver, Burdett & Co., of Boston, publish.

From boyhood Dr. Cook has always been a hard worker; and he has had the wisdom so to plan and conduct his work as to make it highly effective. It is one of his characteristics "to bring things to pass." His clear head, his manly vigor, his equable temper, and his companionable qualities, have given him an enviable place, not only with educators and students, but with professional men of all classes and with the people generally. His departure from his present honorable position, which he has filled so long and so well, will be deeply re-

gretted by hundreds in Normal and Bloomington, and in all other parts of McLean county.

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SAMUEL H. DIMMETT, who is now living a retired life in the city of Bloomington, was for many years connected with the agricultural interests of McLean county, and through his well directed labors won the competence that now enables him to put aside business cares. He was born in North Fairfield township, Huron county, Ohio, March 6, 1831, a son of John and Angeline Dimmett. The family was founded in America during the early part of the Revolutionary war, by ancestors who located in Boston, Massachusetts. The mother of our subject died when he was only nine years of age, leaving three children. The father, a native of Virginia, had located in Ohio when a young man, and there in the midst of the forest developed a good farm. Clearing away the timber, he plowed and planted his land, and in course of time had a valuable property, upon which he spent his remaining days.

Mr. Dimmett, whose name introduces this review, acquired his education in a log school-house near his father's home, and assisted in the work of the farm until twenty-one years of age, when he started out in life for himself. He chose as a companion and helpmeet on life's journey Miss Angeline Perritt, whose father had brought his family from England to America during her early girlhood. Mr. Dimmett rented a farm in Ohio until his removal to Oldtown township, McLean county, where he purchased a tract of land, and to its development and improvement devoted his energies for a number of years. He was a practical, pro-



gressive and enterprising farmer, and his well tilled fields, substantial buildings, good machinery and modern improvements all indicated his careful supervision. He continued the labor of plowing, planting and harvesting until 1873, when he came to Bloomington, where he has since practically lived retired.

At all times he has been deeply interested in the growth and progress of the city, and has given his aid and support in the furtherance of many movements calculated for the public good. He was for some time a foreman for the city, and in 1880 and 1881 served as street commissioner, during which time Center street was paved with the first brick pavement laid in Bloomington, and Grove street was macadamized. In his political affiliations Mr. Dimmett is a Republican, and, keeping well informed on the issues of the day, is able to give an intelligent and effective support to the party. His wife is still living, and they have one son, Arthur B., now a prominent business man of Bloomington. Their home is pleasantly located at No. 706 East Market street, and there their many friends enjoy the hospitality which they so freely extend.

ARTHUR B. DIMMETT, son of Samuel Dimmett, now occupies a commanding position in commercial circles in his adopted city, has gained this by enterprise, capable management and genuine merit. Almost his entire life has been passed in McLean county and his career is that of a man who through the various stages of life has been true to manly principles and high ideals, yet withal is practical and diligent. He was born April 2, 1853, in the old log house in North Fairfield township, Huron county, Ohio, on the same farm where occurred the birth of his father, and was only four years

of age when brought by his parents to Illinois. Reared on the farm in Oldtown township, he attended the public schools of the neighborhood for a time, then entered the Wesleyan Preparatory School and in 1873 began the regular college work. On completing his education he served an apprenticeship at the tinner's trade under H. H. Hewett of this city, and continued in his employ until Mr. Hewett sold out, when Mr. Dimmett began business for himself at No. 224 E. Front street with a stock of goods that he could have carried in three bushel baskets, with the exception of his tools. He continued tinning, roofing and all allied industries and as opportunity offered added a stock of hardware, his first purchase in that line, however, amounting to only sixty dollars. He has since continuously added to his stock until he now has a large and well appointed store, well supplied with everything in the line of tin and hardware. When he started out upon his business career, he was counseled by Peter Whitmer, an old business man, "not to buy a dollar's worth of stock unless he knew where to get the dollar to pay for it." This advice he has always followed, and has never had a draft drawn upon him in all his business career. His honorable course has awakened the highest commendation and has secured him a liberal and well deserved patronage. In connection with the sale of his stock in the store he has a large business in tinning, roofing and all kinds of job work, while his hardware and tinware fill the store room at No. 224 East Front street and a commodious storeroom elsewhere.

Mr. Dimmett is a valued member of Remembrance Lodge, No. 77, I. O. O. F., and is past grand. His name also appears on the membership roll of Damon Lodge,



K. P., of which he is past chancellor, and in the Independent Order of Foresters he is past chief ranger and has represented his local lodge in the grand lodge for seven years. He is popular with his brethren of these organizations, and his social qualities are such as to gain him high regard. A long and active business career well entitles him to prominence in commercial circles. He has been the architect of his own fortune and has builded wisely and well. He is a man of good judgment, possessing excellent executive and business ability, combined with resistless energy and resolute purpose. He has the confidence of the business public and the warm regard of a host of personal friends.

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**HUGH ROBB.** In the busy community located in the thriving little city of Heyworth, we find several energetic and thorough-going business men who have attained success through their own tact, good judgment and perseverance. Among this number is the gentleman whose name heads this biographical notice, and who at the present time is a representative of the drug trade of this place.

Mr. Robb was born in Waynesville, De Witt county, Illinois, September 3, 1846, and is a son of James R. Robb, whose birth occurred in Tennessee in 1814. The grandfather, John Robb, who was of Irish parentage, removed from North Carolina to Tennessee at an early day, and in 1830 came to Illinois, being one of the first settlers of De Witt county. He took up a claim near Waynesville and there opened up and developed a farm. James R. Robb, father of our subject, was a youth of about sixteen years when he came with his father

to De Witt county, and he bore an active part in the improvement and cultivation of the home farm. There he married Nancy Cantrall, a native of Champaign county, Ohio, and a daughter of Joshua Cantrall, who was of Scotch descent and an early settler of De Witt county, Illinois, having located there about 1833. Mr. Robb had also entered land near Waynesville, and, in connection with its operation, he engaged in freighting in early days, hauling bacon and farm produce to Chicago with ox teams and bringing back merchandise for the pioneers. He improved a nice farm, but was called away in the midst of his usefulness, dying in 1847, at the early age of thirty-three years. His wife survived him many years, and spent her last days in Heyworth, where she died in 1895. Of the three sons born to this worthy couple our subject is the youngest and only survivor. Joshua, the oldest, enlisted in April, 1861, at the president's first call for troops to assist in putting down the rebellion, becoming a member of Company E, Twentieth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He died in 1862, from the effects of his service, while home on a sick furlough. Marion, the second son, enlisted in August, 1862, in Company D, One Hundred and Seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and remained in the service until hostilities ceased. After his discharge he returned to the home farm, but later removed to Hillsboro, Montgomery county, Illinois, where he died in 1886.

Hugh Robb was given the advantages of a common-school education during his youth, and for a time was also a student in a private school at Waynesville. After completing his studies he returned to the home farm, which he successfully carried on from the age of sixteen years, in 1862,

until 1871, when he came to Heyworth. He first embarked in the manufacture of lumber, owning an interest in a sawmill which he operated for one year, and then opened a grocery store, having purchased an entirely new stock. For seven years he successfully engaged in that business and about a year after selling out entered a drug store, where he soon became thoroughly familiar with the drug business. Later he was out of business for a few years, and after spending a short time as clerk in a grocery store, he again entered a drug house, with which he was connected for four years. In 1888 he started a new drug store of his own on the west side of Heyworth, in the same block where he still carries on operations, and put in a full stock of drugs, medicines, paints, oils, etc., and by fair dealing and carrying only first-class goods, he has succeeded in building up an excellent trade which he still enjoys.

On the 26th of February, 1880, at Heyworth, Mr. Robb married Miss Josie Scroggy, a native of Frankfort, Clinton county, Indiana, and a daughter of Joseph Scroggy, who died at that place. Later she made her home with her uncle, Dr. D. H. McFarland, in Heyworth. She was educated principally in the Hanover Academy of Hanover, Indiana, and the Heyworth high school. Of the two children born to our subject and his wife, Earl died at the age of six years, and James H. Lanier is attending the home school.

Mr. Robb is a fluent and able writer, and for eight years was local editor of the Heyworth Standard, then published at Bloomington, and now for about nine years has been the Heyworth correspondent of the Pantagraph of Bloomington. Since casting his first presidential vote for Gen-

eral U. S. Grant, in 1868, he has affiliated with the Republican party, and has taken quite an active and prominent part in local politics. He has been a delegate to several county conventions of his party, and has most capably filled the office of township clerk several years, and has also been a member of the village board two terms. He and his wife are prominent members of the Presbyterian church of Heyworth, in which he has served as deacon for a number of years. Socially he is one of the most popular members of the Odd Fellows Lodge, of which he is past grand, and has filled all the chairs in both the subordinate lodge and encampment, being past patriarch of the latter, and for thirteen years served as permanent secretary in the subordinate lodge. He has represented both branches in the grand lodge, and is a member of the Daughters of Rebecca, in which he is serving as financial secretary. He has served as past chancellor and has filled all the offices in the Knights of Pythias Lodge, and he is now master of finance, in which capacity he has served altogether for five years. Both Mr. and Mrs. Robb belong to the District Court of Honor and socially are very prominent in their community.

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**WINTON CARLOCK.** The subject of this review is one whose history touches the pioneer epoch in the annals of McLean county, and whose days have been an integral part of that indissoluble chain which linked the early, formative period with that of latter-day progress and prosperity. He has not only been a prominent factor in the development of the county, but has also materially aided in the ad-

vancement of all social, educational and moral interests.

Mr. Carlock was born April 28, 1819, near Livingston, the county seat of Overton county, Tennessee, a son of Reuben and Amy (Jones) Carlock, also natives of that state. His paternal grandfather was Abraham Carlock, who came to Illinois in territorial days and located near Springfield and afterward moved to Lewiston, in what is now Fulton county. His children were Isaac, Reuben, George, Abraham W., Jacob and William. The last named is the only one now living, his home being in Lewiston, Illinois. When the family came to this state Isaac and Reuben, the father of our subject, remained in Tennessee, and it was about 1822 that Isaac came to Illinois and took up his residence in Sangamon county.

Reuben Carlock, however, remained in his native state until 1827, which year witnessed his arrival in McLean county. He located in what is now Dry Grove township, on the south side of Dry Grove timber, it being at that time a part of Tazewell county. His was the fifth family to locate there, while at Twin Grove there were also five; at Stouts Grove seven; at Browns Grove three and at Keg or Blooming Grove there were about thirteen families, which comprised the entire settlement of this section. When the land came into market, in 1829, the father of our subject secured eighty acres and later eighty acres more in Dry Grove township, but in 1834 he sold his property there and removed to White Oak township, where he acquired about six hundred and forty acres. His life was principally devoted to farming and stock raising. In 1849, in company with his brother George O., he crossed the plains

to California, where he engaged in mining for a year and a half and then returned to his home in Illinois, by way of the Isthmus of Panama, New Orleans and the Mississippi river. He was a man of moderate information but superior intelligence and was well informed, being specially proficient in mathematics. He was a Democrat in politics and being one of the prominent and influential citizens of his community, he was called upon to fill a number of local offices, including those of township assessor and overseer of the poor. He was a soldier of the war of 1812 and also a ranger in the Black Hawk war. In religious affairs he was also quite active and was a prominent member of the Christian church, which he assisted in organizing in the county. He was born October 13, 1795, and died April 17, 1854, while his wife, who was born June 13, 1797, passed away April 17, 1891. Three of the children born to them died in infancy, the others being as follows: John J., now a resident of New Paynesville, Minnesota; Winton, our subject; Mahala, widow of R. C. Brown, of White Oak township; and Mahila, widow of James W. Brown, of White Oak township.

Winton Carlock was eight years of age when brought by his parents to McLean county, the journey being made with a one-horse team and an ox team. They crossed the Ohio river at Ford's Ferry and were four weeks upon the road, reaching their destination during the second week of October, 1827. The first night they spent in their new cabin the snow fell a foot deep. Reared amid scenes very common to frontier life, our subject spent the greater part of his boyhood and youth in assisting the early settlers in erecting their cabins and barns. He remained with his parents until his mar-



riage, but in the meantime had entered government land when but a boy and made some improvements upon the place. He still has in his possession the original patents to this tract of forty acres given at Danville, Illinois, September 16, 1835, and signed by President Jackson. It was the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of section 19, township 25, north of range 1 east in the district of lands subject to sale at Danville. At the time of his marriage, however, he owned sixty acres in township 25, range 1 east where he began his domestic life in a frame house he had erected thereon. He remained there engaged in agricultural pursuits until the spring of 1882, when he rented his farm and removed to Hudson, where he was interested in the real-estate business, buying and selling town property for ten years. On disposing of his interests there in 1892 he removed to Carlock, where he is now living retired from the cares and responsibilities of business life. While carrying on farming, he also fed and handled stock quite extensively, and on retiring from that occupation had a fine herd of short-horn cattle. He has met with excellent success in his undertakings and at one time owned six hundred and forty acres, which he has divided among his children, only retaining a tract of one hundred and sixty acres.

Mr. Carlock was first married, July 14, 1842, to Miss Lydia Gaddis, who was born in North Carolina, December 18, 1820, but when only two years old was taken to Indiana by her parents, James and Piety (Tucker) Gaddis. After the death of the father, which occurred in that state, the family came to Illinois. Mrs. Carlock departed this life April 20, 1869. By her marriage to our subject she became the mother of eight

children, namely: James W., born June 8, 1843, is now proprietor of the Beacon Hill House, a tourist resort at Excelsior, Minnesota; Reuben A., born November 25, 1844, is engaged in the lumber business in Carlock; John F., born December 22, 1846, is in the hardware business at Carlock; Phillip M., born April 4, 1850, died January 27, 1884, leaving four children; Silas G., born July 22, 1852, died August 10, 1853; George W., born June 18, 1854, died July 7, 1879; Alvin W., born November 10, 1855, died February 19, 1891, leaving two sons; and Armedia C., born August 15, 1868, is the wife of D. E. Denman, of White Oak township. On the 30th of November, 1871, Mr. Carlock wedded Mrs. Sarah A. Murphy, *née* Hill, who was born in Mulberry, Worcester county, Massachusetts, October 11, 1833, a daughter of George and Mary (Falthen) Hill. In her native state she married Andrew Murphy, and in 1865 they removed to Illinois, locating at El Paso.

Since attaining his majority, Mr. Carlock has been unwavering in his support of the Democratic party and its principles. He has been honored with a number of local offices of trust and responsibility, serving as justice of the peace twenty years, as commissioner of highways, overseer of roads, and as supervisor in Woodford county for a number of terms. These positions were all accepted as a gift from the people, as he never sought office of any kind. Throughout life he has been a consistent and active member of the Christian church, and on the 13th of August, 1836, aided in the organization of the Christain church, in company with James Palmer, William Davenport and James Robinson, all pioneer Christian preachers. For thirty years he has served as elder of the church and has borne an act-



ive and prominent part in all church work. He contributed liberally to the erection of the house of worship in Carlock, and has always given freely of his means to the support of the church. He has also taken an active interest in educational affairs, has assisted in the erection of three school houses in Woodford county and the same number in this county, and served as school director for a number of years.

In early life Mr. Carlock was quite a hunter and sportsman, and was considered the best shot in White Oak Grove, especially at running range. He has killed between two and three hundred deer in this region, shooting as many as four in one day, and he has been on a number of hunting trips through Minnesota and the northwest, during the last of which, in 1866, he killed five deer. He has in his possession a number of interesting relics, including a twenty shilling Continental bill, issued in North Carolina in 1760, also an old receipt for a fine paid in 1782 by his grandfather, Isaac Jones, who was a Quaker and would not attend general muster. He has the record and poll list of the first election held in Panther Creek township, McLean county, November 7, 1835, which contains the following names: Orman Robertson, Thomas Brown, Ruben Carlock, Silas Garrison, Abraham Carlock, Eli Patrick, John W. Brown, James Phillips, Lewis Stephens, Samuel Kirkpatrick, Allen Patrick. The judges were Abraham Carlock, Eli Patrick and John W. Brown, and the clerks Thomas Brown and Ruben Carlock. As an honored pioneer and representative man of his community, Mr. Carlock is worthy the high regard in which he is uniformly held, and is deserving of prominent mention in the history of his adopted country.

ALEXANDER G. ERICKSON, proprietor of a grocery and meat market in Stevensonville, a part of Bloomington, and a very prominent man in business circles and labor organizations, was born in Okarshamm, Kalmarlan, Smoland, Sweden, July 7, 1863, a son of John P. and Christina (Carlson) Erickson. The father was born in the same place, May 25, 1839, the mother in Mollele, Hamersabo, September 30, 1839, and they were married December 31, 1862. In his native land the father followed farming for many years, and then came alone to the United States, landing in New York, June 24, 1868. After working at farming in Henry county, Illinois, for one year, he went for his family, then consisting of wife and two children, our subject and Sophia, now Mrs. Erickson, of Bloomington. After living for about three years near Kewanee, the father came to Bloomington, in 1871, and found employment in the McLean county coal mines when wages were high. There he continued to work until 1897, being one of the oldest in point of service as well as one of the oldest men in the mines. When he purchased his present residence at 1106 West Olive street, twenty years ago, it was the last house on the street, but that section of the city is now built up far beyond him. Politically he is identified with the Republican party, and religiously he and his wife united with the Swedish Lutheran church many years ago. They are well known and highly respected. After coming to this country the family circle was increased by the birth of three other children: Charles Albert, who died at the age of twenty-four years; Emil, who is now clerking for our subject; and Oscar, who is with the McLean County Coal Company.

Mr. Erickson, whose name introduces this sketch, was educated in the public schools of Bloomington, and when not quite fourteen years of age began life for himself by working in the coal mines, where he was employed for eight years. In 1884 he accepted a position as clerk in the grocery store of C. F. Koch, now mayor of Bloomington, and there obtained his first ideas of business. He remained with him until appointed mail carrier by Postmaster J. S. Neville, in 1889, and held that position during the postmaster's term. Later he received the appointment of check weighman from the Coal Miners Union, his duties being to look after the interests of the miners. After filling that office for three months he entered the store which his brother Charles had opened at his present location and remained with him until the latter's death, which occurred July 26, 1895. With his father our subject then purchased the stock and store, and has since been active manager, though his father is still interested in the business. Under his able and judicious management trade has constantly increased until he is now one of the largest dealers in his line in the city and occupies Nos. 1314 and 1316 West Olive street. He carries a full and complete line of staple and fancy groceries, flour, feed and meats of all kinds, and gives employment to five people. His trade extends all over the city, and he numbers among his patrons many of its best citizens.

On the 24th of August, 1884, Mr. Erickson married Miss Mary Stahlberg, also a native of Sweden, and to them have been born eight children, of whom one died at the age of one year. The others are still living and are as follows: Elvira, Edward, Delia, Grace, Lillie, Alexander G. and Roy

W. The family have a nice home at No. 1108 West Olive street, which Mr. Erickson built for himself, and they hold membership in the Swedish Lutheran church.

Our subject is one of the active and influential Republicans of the seventh ward, and is a member of the county central committee for the eleventh precinct at the present time. In the spring of 1899 he was elected alderman for his ward. Fraternally he belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America and the National Union. He has always taken an active part in organized labor, and for one year he has served as president of the Coal Miners' Union since he has been in his present business, for he well knows the needs of labor, and still gives such organizations his encouragement and support.

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**ABRAM KELLEY.** In the respect that is accorded to men who have fought their way to success through unfavorable environments we find an unconscious recognition of the intrinsic worth of a character which can not only endure so rough a test, but gain new strength through the discipline. The following history sets forth briefly the steps by which our subject, now one of the substantial agriculturists of Randolph township, overcame the disadvantages of his early life. For a half century he has been prominently identified with the agricultural interests of the county, and is now the owner of a fine farm on section 32, Randolph township.

Mr. Kelley was born April 6, 1830, in Indiana, five miles east of Terre Haute, and is a son of Amos and Elizabeth (Jackson) Kelley, natives of Kentucky, where their marriage was celebrated. It was in 1829

that they took up their residence in Indiana and in the midst of the wilderness, the father cleared and developed a farm, upon which he died in 1837, at the age of forty-five years. His widow was left in limited circumstances with a family of nine children to support. With the assistance of her sons she continued the improvement and cultivation of the farm and provided for her children as best she could. There Abram Kelley was reared to habits of industry and thrift, and on leaving Indiana came with his mother and family to McLean county, Illinois, with a four-horse wagon, but with the exception of himself all went to Storey county, Iowa, in 1851.

During the first two or three years of his residence in this county our subject worked by the month as a farm hand, but after his marriage in 1852 rented a farm, operating rented land for eleven years. At the same time he engaged in chopping and splitting rails and followed that occupation through the winter months for twenty years. In 1852 he led to the marriage altar Miss Permelia Moore, who was born in Ohio, but was reared in this county, where her father, John Moore, one of its honored pioneers, located as early as 1831. The children born of this union are Lula, now the wife of James Recker, of Bloomington, by whom she has two children, Elmer and Mabel. Frank is married and resides in Bloomington. Anna is the wife of Samuel Van Horn, of Funks Grove township, by whom she has five children, May, Myrtle, Chester and George. Herman, Homer and Elizabeth, all three are at home.

Mr. Kelley's first purchase of land consisted of one hundred and sixty acres of raw prairie, in Downs township, upon which was not a stick of timber, the nearest grove

being a mile and a quarter away. This farm he fenced and placed under cultivation, erected thereon a good house and barn, but after operating it four or five years sold and moved to Heyworth before the town was started or the railroad laid out. Near that village he owned and conducted a farm for twenty-seven years. In the meantime he purchased his present farm on section 32, Randolph township, and located thereon in February, 1884, since which time he has made many improvements upon the place, including the erection of a pleasant residence and substantial outbuildings, which stand as monuments to his thrift and industry. Besides this valuable place, he owns another well improved farm of eighty acres in Downs township, and is justly accounted one of the best and most skillful farmers of the community.

In political sentiment, Mr. Kelley is a Jeffersonian Democrat, who cast his first presidential ballot for Franklin Pierce in 1852. Socially he is a member of Heyworth Lodge, I. O. O. F., and religiously his wife belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church. They have a wide circle of friends and acquaintances throughout the community, and are held in high regard on account of their sterling worth and many excellencies of character.

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**PETER E. OLSEN.** Many of Bloomington's most progressive and enterprising citizens are those whose early homes were on the other side of the Atlantic. To this class belongs Mr. Olsen, a well known general merchant, who is now successfully engaged in business at No. 1016 West Washington street. He was born in the town of Falun, Dalarne, Sweden, March 22, 1859,



a son of Andrew Olsen, a miller of that place, who rented and operated two mills, and was doing an extensive business at the time of his death, which occurred when our subject was only seven years old. He left five children, of whom four came to America. These being Peter E., our subject; Mrs. John Larson, of Bloomington; Andrew, of Webster county, Iowa, and Mrs. Sunberg, of Worcester, Massachusetts. The mother lived and died at the old home in Sweden. Both parents were earnest members of the Lutheran church, and were held in high esteem by all who knew them.

The city where our subject was born was the ancestral home of the family, and there he was reared, his education being obtained in its public schools. At the age of eighteen years he came alone to the United States, and without friends or acquaintances started out in a strange land to seek his fortune. Coming to Bloomington he found employment in the McLean county coal mines, where he worked for six years. In an accident in the mines after he had been there for three years he unfortunately lost one leg. His wages, however, was good, and he remained there three years longer. Having saved some money he then bought a team, and for the following twelve years successfully engaged in teaming on his own account, and later was with the city employ with his team for five years. In the spring of 1898 he embarked in merchandising in the brick block at No. 1016 West Washington street, stocking his store with a good line of general merchandise, and although he has been engaged in this business only a short time he has already built up a good trade which is constantly increasing. By fair and honorable dealing he wins the confidence and good will of his patrons.

In Bloomington, August 2, 1880, Mr. Olsen married Miss Louisa Olsen, a native of Ransberg, Sweden, and to them have been born five children, but Robert, the second in order of birth, died at the age of six years. Those living are as follows: Axel, born August 19, 1881, is now in the employ of Robert Loudon; Godfrey, born April 30, 1885; Beda, born November 10, 1887; and Dell Adrian, born September 7, 1889, are all at school. Eighteen years ago Mr. Olsen purchased his present comfortable home at No. 717 West Jefferson street, where he has resided continuously since. Religiously, he and his wife hold membership in the Lutheran church, and, fraternally, he belongs to the Scandinavian Benevolent Society, and the Modern Woodmen of America, in which he has held office. The Republican party finds in him a staunch supporter of its principles, and in 1899 he was the popular candidate for superintendent of the streets. His course in life has ever been such as to commend him to the confidence and respect of all with whom he has come in contact, either in business or social life, and he has a host of warm friends in his adopted city.

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GEORGE N. DUNLAP, who is living a retired life on his farm in Danvers township, was born July 2, 1821, near Lexington, Kentucky, and is a son of William and Onie (Green) Dunlap, the former a native of Virginia and son of William Dunlap, Sr., a soldier of the Revolutionary war, who, after the surrender of Cornwallis, emigrated to Kentucky, and located three miles from Fort Lexington, now the city of Lexington. His wife was Rebecca Robertson, of English descent, her father being a clergyman



in Virginia. She lived to the age of ninety-nine years. William Dunlap, Sr., died at the age of seventy-two years. They were the parents of seven children, five sons and two daughters. William Dunlap, the father of our subject, never came to Illinois, dying in Kentucky, as did also his wife. They were the parents of ten children, of whom George N. was ninth in order of birth.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in his native state, and received a limited common-school education. He was married September 16, 1851, to Miss Mary H. Nichols, who was born in Lincoln, Kentucky, December 5, 1833, and daughter of Walter and Elizabeth M. (Thompson) Nichols, the former a native of Newport, Rhode Island, and a direct descendant of William Mullens, a native of England, who came to this country in the first voyage of the Mayflower. The Thompsons were of one of the very prominent old families of Virginia. Walter Nichols was a son of Joshua and Hannah (Coggeshall) Nichols, the former a native of Newport, Rhode Island, and the latter of New York. He was a furniture manufacturer and moved to Kentucky at a very early day, locating in Danville in 1808. He there resided until a few years before his death, when he sold his property and located in Rushville, Illinois, where he lived with his children until called from this life in 1866. Walter Nichols also learned the trade of furniture making. He was reared and educated in Danville, Kentucky, and there married Elizabeth M. Thompson, and they became the parents of three children: Mary H. is the wife of our subject. Sarah T. is the wife of Richard Gray, and they reside in Bloomington, Illinois. Nelson A. resides in Lexington,

Kentucky, where he is in the grain, tobacco and warehouse business. Walter Nichols died in 1890 at the age of eighty-five years. His wife died when but thirty-seven years old.

To Mr. and Mrs. Dunlap eleven children were born. Lizzie T. married Jesse Barnes, of Bloomington, Illinois, but died in 1893, leaving three children. Walter N. married, and died in 1886, leaving one child. Anna B. is the wife of W. Z. Morrison, and they have one child. Their residence is in Bloomington. William G. died at the age of nine years, from the kick of a vicious horse. Sarah G. is the wife of R. L. Carlock, county clerk of McLean county, and they have one child. They reside in Bloomington. Mary T. is the wife of H. L. Bell, of Danvers township. George B. married Gertrude M. Bell, and with their two children they reside in Danvers township. Hattie N. married John R. Perry, and they have one child. Their home is in Barton county, Missouri. Isaac M. married Bertha E. Bell, and they reside in Danvers township. Thomas died at the age of two years. Edwin C. resides at home with his parents.

Soon after his marriage, which occurred in his native state, Mr. Dunlap moved to Jackson county, Missouri, where he resided three years, engaged in farming, but on account of his wife's ill health he returned to Kentucky, but in 1858 came to McLean county, and has since made this his home. On coming to the county he purchased a section of land near Bloomington, where he made his home until the spring of 1867, when he moved to Normal to educate his children in the university. While the children were in the university he engaged very extensively in the whole-

sale dairy business, and in connection with it engaged in breeding very fine Berkshire hogs, which he exhibited with some profit at various local fairs. He also raised some fine saddle horses. In 1884 he moved west of the city, and in 1885 practically retired from business.

In politics Mr. Dunlap is a Democrat, with which party he has affiliated since attaining his majority. For many years he served on the school board, having always taken great interest in the public schools. He is a member of the Presbyterian church, as is also his wife. One peculiarity of the family, on both the Dunlap and the Nichols side, is that not one member of it has ever married with one of a foreign nation. They are Americans pure and simple. While nearing four score years, Mr. Dunlap is a well-preserved man, and is a typical Kentucky gentleman, always ready to greet a friend and welcome all to his hospitable home.

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**WILLIAM LOCKER HALLAM, M. D.,** deceased, was for several years one of the most prominent physicians and influential citizens of Bloomington. He was a native of Illinois, born in Louisville April 2, 1851, a son of Dr. John Locker and Sarah (Green) Hallam. The father was born in England, but when only five or six years old he was brought to this country by his parents, who settled in Grayville, White county, Illinois, where he spent his boyhood and youth. He was a very learned man, have received a classical as well as a medical education in higher institutions of learning in St. Louis, Missouri. He read medicine with his father-in-law, Dr. Green, a pioneer physician of this state, who died

years ago. For half a century Dr. Hallam successfully engaged in the practice of his chosen profession in Centralia, Illinois, was also a surgeon for the Illinois Central railroad for many years, and was one of the most prominent surgeons in his section of the state. He died in June, 1894, at the age of seventy-six years, and his death was felt as a loss among all classes, as he was widely and favorably known.

Dr. William L. Hallam, our subject, was educated in the schools of Centralia and Lebanon College. He commenced the study of medicine under the able direction of his father, and later entered the Medical College of Ohio, at Cincinnati, where he was graduated with the degree of M. D., in 1874. He was engaged in active practice with his father at Centralia for one year, and then located in Grayville, where he remained for twelve years.

On the 23d of November, 1875, Dr. Hallam married Miss Florence N. Condit, of Centralia, a daughter of Edwin S. Condit, who was for many years a prominent banker of that city, and provost marshal during the civil war. He was born in New Jersey, and belonged to an old and highly respected family of that state. To the Doctor and his wife were born five children, four of whom are still living, namely: John Edwin Condit, deceased; Elizabeth M., Harriet N., Roscoe Locker and Lucile S.

In October, 1887, Dr. Hallam came to Bloomington and at once formed a partnership with Dr. Barnes, which connection continued until the latter was appointed postmaster. Dr. Hallam then became associated with Dr. Chapin. He served for a time as surgeon for the Chicago & Alton Railroad, and was a prominent member of the county and state medical societies. His

skill and ability were attested by the liberal patronage he enjoyed and he ranked as one of the leading physicians of this locality. Socially he was a Knight Templar Mason, and was serving as commander of De Molay Commandery at the time of his death, which occurred January 23, 1898. He was also alderman from the first ward. Politically he affiliated with the Republican party, and religiously was a member of the First Methodist Episcopal church, to which his estimable wife also belongs. The Doctor was a man of genial manner and pleasing disposition, and wherever he went he won friends, and had the happy faculty of being able to retain them. His popularity made him a great favorite in all circles.

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JAMES W. ADAMS, a well-to-do farmer residing on section 7, Randolph township, eight miles south of Bloomington, is a self-made man, without an extraordinary family or pecuniary advantages at the commencement of life, has battled earnestly and energetically, and by indomitable courage and integrity has achieved both character and a competence. By sheer force of will and untiring effort he has worked his way upward.

Mr. Adams was born in Estill county, Kentucky, July 3, 1851, a son of Berryman and Cynthia Ann (Moppin) Adams, natives of Virginia. At an early day the father removed to Estill county, Kentucky, and there spent the remainder of his life as a farmer, dying in April, 1862. He was a soldier of the war of 1812 and while fighting with Indians during that struggle he was captured and held a prisoner by them for three months, when a white man traded a pony for him, thus securing his release,

After the death of his father, James W. Adams was thrown upon his own resources at the early age of eleven years and endured many hardships and privations before reaching manhood. His life was spent upon a farm and as he had to work hard, he received very little schooling and the greater part of the knowledge he has acquired has been gained by reading and observation in later years. When a young man of nineteen years he came to McLean county, Illinois, where he took up his residence in October, 1869. He worked by the month on the poor farm for two years and for the following six years was similarly employed by different parties.

On the 21st of January, 1877, in Randolph township, Mr. Adams married Miss Clara Elizabeth, daughter of Sylvester Jones, who came here from Ohio at an early day, and later lived in Missouri, where Mrs. Adams was born, but finally returned to this state, where she was reared and educated. Sylvester Jones was a member of the Ninety-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, enlisting in 1862, in Bloomington, and was with his regiment until his death in March, 1863. He was brought back to McLean county, and buried in the Frankeberger cemetery. His wife, Anna Ireland, died in Wellington, Kansas, June, 1898. Five children have been born to our subject and his wife, namely: Gracie, who died at the age of thirteen years; Anna, Ivan, Avery and Ada, twins, all still at home with their parents.

For eleven years after his marriage, Mr. Adams rented the Funk farm three miles east of McLean, and then, in 1888, purchased the farm on section 7, Randolph township, where he now resides. He has remodeled and repaired the dwelling, has fenced and tiled the place, and made many other im-



provements which add greatly to its value and beauty. In addition to general farming he devoted considerable attention to stock raising, and is meeting with excellent success in his labors. He cast his first presidential vote for Samuel J. Tilden, in 1876, and since that time has never wavered in his allegiance to the Democratic party and its principles. He takes a commendable interest in public affairs, especially along the line of education, and for nine years most efficiently served as school director in his district. Fraternally, he is a Master Mason, and he stands high in the esteem and confidence of his fellow citizens.

**S**IMON FRY, a leading and representative citizen of White Oak township, now living retired upon his fine farm of one hundred and ninety-six acres on section 31, is a veteran of the civil war and bears an honorable record for brave service in the cause of freedom and union, and in the paths of peace he has also won an enviable reputation through the sterling qualities which go to the making of a good citizen.

Mr. Fry was born in Preble county, Ohio, June 19, 1841, a son of Jonas and Christina (Null) Fry. The father was a native of Virginia, born in 1806, but when a lad of ten years accompanied his parents on their removal from the Old Dominion to Warren county, Ohio, where he grew to manhood and was married. Subsequently he became a resident of Preble county, that state, where he was engaged in farming and stock raising until 1854, which year witnessed his arrival in McLean county, Illinois. Locating in Danvers township, he resided there until his death, which oc-

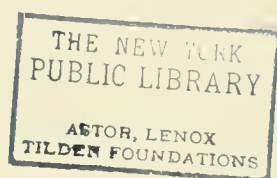
curred in October, 1872. His wife survived him several years, dying February 18, 1886.

In his political affiliations he was first a Whig and later a Republican, and in religious faith he was a United Brethren. He had eight children who reached man and womanhood, namely: Catherine, deceased wife of Peter Wintz, of Carlock; Michael, who is living retired in Bloomington; Phoebe, deceased wife of William Gilmore, of White Oak township; Emanuel, who died in Harvey county, Kansas, in February, 1899; Lucinda, deceased wife of Dewitt Wallace, of White Oak township; John P., who served for three years in Company E, Ninety-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, during the civil war and is now a resident of Wellington, Kansas; Simon, our subject; and George, a farmer of White Oak township.

Simon Fry was thirteen years old when brought by his parents to McLean county, and he remained under the parental roof until he attained his majority, acquiring a good common-school education. On the 13th of August, 1862, he joined the boys in blue as a member of Company E, Ninety-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and served for three years or until hostilities ceased. At the battle of Prairie Grove, Arkansas, he was wounded by a minie ball passing through his thigh, but remained with his regiment and was only off duty two months. He participated in the sieges of Vicksburg, Fort Morganza, Alabama, and Spanish Fort, and then crossed the bay from Mobile and went to Galveston, Texas, where he was mustered out. At Springfield, Illinois, he was honorably discharged and returned home with a war record of which he should be justly proud.

Mr. Fry then turned his attention to the







SIMON FRY.



MRS. MARY E. FRY.

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more quite pursuits of farm life, beginning operations upon eighty acres of his present farm, where he has resided continuously since with the exception of six months, when engaged in milling in Danvers; and a year and a half, in 1882 and 1883, when interested in the grocery business in Bloomington. He has followed stock raising in connection with farming, making a specialty of fine horses, both draft and roadsters. He was one of the organizers and is president of the Danvers German Coach Horse Company, organized in the spring of 1898, and has done much to elevate that class of stock in the county.

On the 19th of September, 1866, Mr. Fry wedded Miss Mary E. Boggs, who was born in Woodford county, Illinois, May 7, 1848. Her parents, Francis H. and Elizabeth (Vance) Boggs, were natives of Pennsylvania and Kentucky, respectively, and early settlers of this state. Our subject and his wife have one son, Walter H., who now carries on the home farm. He married Cora A. McReynolds, a native of McLean county and daughter of Edward McReynolds. Five children bless this union: Pearl B., Goldie B., Lyle E., Hobart Simon and Opal M.

Politically Mr. Fry is a Republican, but at local elections endeavors to vote for the best man, regardless of party ties. He has efficiently served as school director in his district and every duty imposed upon him has been most faithfully discharged.

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**MERRITT CHISM.** Prominent among the representative citizens and respected and influential men of White Oak township, is the subject of this biographical notice, whose home is on section 26. His

valuable farm of six hundred and forty acres, located on sections 23, 25 and 26, is well improved and highly cultivated, and shows conclusively the owner has not mistaken his calling in adopting agriculture.

Mr. Chism was born on his father's estate on section 23, White Oak township, March 25, 1852, a son of Jesse and Artimza (Brown) Chism. The father was born in Cumberland county, Tennessee, May 16, 1822, and was a son of John Chism, a native of Scotland, who on his emigration to America located in Tennessee, where he spent the remainder of his life. The latter's wife was of German birth. In their family were four sons, Richard, John, James and Jesse, two of whom, John and James, disappeared during the civil war, and all trace of them was lost. One daughter, Nancy, married and remained in Tennessee.

In his native state Jesse Chism continued to make his home until twenty-four years of age, caring for his widowed mother from the age of fifteen. Soon after her death, in 1848, he came to Illinois on horseback, McLean county being his destination, as acquaintances of his had previously located here. On his arrival, in November, 1848, he had but fifteen dollars in money, an old watch and an old horse, supplemented with six months' schooling in the public school, with which to begin life for himself. At first he worked at the carpenter's trade, and in company with J. H. Rowell, now of Bloomington, engaged in the sawmill business on Mackinaw river for two years. On the 5th of November, 1849, he married Artimza Brown, also a native of Tennessee, who was brought to this state during her infancy by her parents, Zachariah and Elizabeth (Jones) Brown. The young couple commenced housekeeping upon a tract of

eighty acres in White Oak township, owned by Mrs. Chism, and there they continued to make their home for fifteen years, their first residence being a log cabin, which the father purchased for five dollars, moved and rebuilt upon his place. Throughout life he continued to follow agricultural pursuits with most excellent results, and was also extensively interested in the stock business, making larger shipments than any other man in his vicinity. He met with signal success in all business affairs, and became the owner of two thousand acres of valuable land, principally in McLean county. From his own timber he furnished a considerable amount of ties to the Illinois Central Railroad. In his political views he was a staunch Republican, though not a politician in the sense of office seeking. However, he served in a number of local positions of honor and trust. An earnest and consistent Christian gentleman, he took an active part in religious work, and was one of the founders of the East White Oak Christian church, and was one of the main pillars of the church, with which he was officially connected for many years. He died January 4, 1898, his wife March 15, 1870, honored and respected by all who knew them. Of their seven children, four died in infancy. Those who reached man and womanhood were Amelia, deceased wife of John J. Riley, of White Oak township; Merritt, our subject; and Perry, a merchant of Bloomington.

During his early life our subject became thoroughly familiar with all the duties which fall to the lot of the agriculturist, and he acquired a good practical education in the common schools, which he attended until eighteen years of age, and then entered Eureka College, at Eureka, Illinois, where he pursued his studies for eighteen months.

On starting out in life for himself he chose the occupation to which he had been reared, and received from his father's estate the land he now owns. He continued to actively engage in farming until 1898, when he leased his place, and has since lived retired.

On the 16th of September, 1874, Mr. Chism led to the marriage altar Miss America Robinson, also a native of White Oak township, and a daughter of William and Elizabeth (Brown) Robinson. They began their domestic life upon his farm in a comfortable residence he had erected thereon, and to the further improvement and cultivation of the place he devoted his time and attention, making it one of the best of the many fine farms of this locality. In the fall of 1898 he removed to his present home, erected on another part of the estate. He keeps a good grade of stock, including some time roadsters.

The first wife of our subject died April 13, 1897. Thirteen children were born to them, eleven of whom are still living, namely: Walter P., who is engaged in farming upon the homestead; Frank W., a resident of White Oak township; Edith M., at home; Jesse Garfield, who was named for his grandfather and President Garfield; Roy M.; Imo C.; Earl G.; Chester W.; Harvey W.; Stella J.; and Mattie A., whose middle name is for her paternal grandmother. On the 15th of February, 1899, Mr. Chism wedded Mrs. Mary E. Freeland, daughter of William and Anna (Brooks) Wilson, of Lowsville, Illinois.

The Republican party finds in Mr. Chism a staunch supporter of its principles, and he has served his fellow citizens in the capacity of school director for sixteen years. Both he and his wife are earnest and faithful members of the Christian church, in

which he has served as deacon. He is one of the most progressive, enterprising and public-spirited citizens of his community, and is very popular with a wide circle of friends and acquaintances who esteem him highly for his genuine worth.

**H**ENRY KRIEGER, the well-known grocer and provision dealer of South Allen street, Bloomington, was born in Chillicothe, Ohio, April 12, 1861, and is the son of Peter and Anna Elizabeth (Roos) Kreiger, both of whom were natives of Germany. Peter Krieger grew to manhood in Germany, and when a young man emigrated to the United States, locating in Baltimore, where he worked at his trade of tailoring, which he had learned in the old country. While residing in Baltimore he was united in marriage with Mrs. Anna Elizabeth Snyder, *née* Roos, and soon after moved to Portsmouth, Ohio, and later to Chillicothe, in the same state. From the latter place he came to Bloomington when our subject was a small lad. Here he first was employed as a tailor by Peter Gratz, and later with other old established houses, and then for himself, until on account of advanced age he retired from business. On coming to Bloomington he purchased a home near Miller Park, where he lived for more than thirty years. His death occurred in November, 1896, while his good wife preceded him about one year. He was a member of an early German benevolent society, Uhland lodge of Odd Fellows, and always had a warm place in his heart for those from the fatherland.

In the public schools of Bloomington our subject obtained his education, and in his youth learned the tailor trade with his

father, at which he continued until 1882, when he opened a small grocery store at No. 503 South Allen street, and did most of the work himself. His room was quite small at first, but as his trade increased he enlarged the store, and in the years that have passed has made four additions to his premises, which now goes to the limit of his lot. His success has been well pleasing to himself and his many friends, and his well stocked store gives evidence of his business ability. No longer can he do the work alone, but in addition to the help given by his wife, he employs a man and is assisted by his daughters, and all are kept busy. He now owns a lot with sixty feet frontage, on which he has erected a good home in which the family live.

Mr. Krieger was married February 21, 1884, to Miss Helena Schmitz, who was born in the city of Chicago, and daughter of John and Anna Maria (Metzger) Schmitz, both of whom were natives of Germany; the mother was born in Mahren, R. B. Thrier, Prussia, and the father at Malburg, Knis, Betburg; but they were married in Chicago. They came to Bloomington when Mrs. Krieger was about a month old, in 1861. The father was a pattern-maker by trade, and on coming to Bloomington found employment in the shops of the Chicago & Alton Railroad, where he remained for a short time, and then opened a furniture store and undertaking establishment on West Chestnut street. He was one of the first employes in the railroad shops of the city and was one of the charter members of the Bloomington School Verein. For many years he continued in business with gratifying success, but he is now living a retired life. His wife passed to her reward on May 12, 1880.



To Mr. and Mrs. Krieger three children have been born, one of whom, Henry Earl died when five and a half years old. The living are Carrie A. and Viola E., who are students in the public schools and also of College of Music. In the transaction of the business of her husband, Mrs. Krieger has been a constant helper and an invaluable aid. She believes that a wife should be truly a helpmeet to her husband. Fraternally, Mr. Krieger is a member of Pythian Lodge, No. 161, K. P., and politically, he is independent.

**JEROME T. KEPNER**, an influential farmer of Dry Grove township, is the owner of three hundred and fifty acres of highly cultivated land. He was born in Juniatta county, Pennsylvania, February 20, 1830, and is the son of Samuel and Hester (Walker) Kepner, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania, the former born in 1800, and the latter in 1802. The paternal grandfather, Samuel Kepner, Sr., was a soldier in the Revolutionary army. He married a Miss Rinehart, and to them were born eight children, of whom Samuel, the father of our subject, was fifth in order of birth. He died in Pennsylvania, the result of an accident, his wife surviving him, and dying at the age of eighty years. Samuel Kepner, the father, grew to manhood in his native state and there married Hester Walker, daughter of John Walker, a farmer of Pennsylvania, who there lived and died. By this union there were nine children, of whom six grew to maturity: Jerome T., the subject of this sketch. Calvin A., who resides in Juniatta county, Pennsylvania; Samuel A., who resides in Atchison county, Kansas; William W., who died in Juniatta

county, Pennsylvania, at the age of forty-five years; Jane, widow of Samuel Ritzman, of Juniatta county, Pennsylvania; and Matilda, wife of Benjamin Groniger, of the same county and state. The mother of these children died in 1883, at the age of eighty-one years, the father surviving her, dying in 1888, at the age of eighty-eight years. They were members of the Lutheran church, and in politics he was a Democrat.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in his native county, and received his education in the public schools. Leaving school at the age of eighteen years, he assisted his father in farm work until twenty-four years old, when he was united in marriage with Miss Jane Thomas, a native of Juniatta county, Pennsylvania. Immediately after their marriage they came to Illinois and located in Peoria county, and there remained three years. His wife died September 15, 1858, leaving two children. The second born, Matilda, lived to be two years old. The first born, Stewart A., born March 5, 1855, now resides in Atchison county, Kansas. He married Belle Switzer, who died leaving four children—Helen M., Fannie L., Harry J. and Dorothy B.

After the death of his wife, Mr. Kepner made two trips back to his native county and state, and on the 11th of August, 1864, he married Mrs. Sarah E. Stevens, widow of Alexander O. Stevens, of Juniatta county, Pennsylvania, who had a daughter by her first husband, Ella, whom married Fred Brown, by whom she has four children—Loe, Grace E., Dora E. and Carl. They reside in Dry Grove township. She was born June 24, 1838, and is a daughter of Samuel and Sarah (Kepner) Rice, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania, the former born in



1803, and the latter in 1804. They were the parents of ten children, of whom six grew to maturity. Matilda C. married J. R. Ritner, but died at the age of nineteen years. Martha J., now the widow of J. R. Ritner, resides in Newport, Pennsylvania. Sarah E. is the wife of our subject. John died at the age of twenty-six years. Mary M. is the wife of Richard Stratton, and they reside in Fairbury, Illinois. Fannie A. died at the age of twenty-eight years. Samuel Rice for many years was engaged in the mercantile business in Port Royal, Pennsylvania. He died at the age of fifty-seven years, while his wife died when forty-two years old.

To Jerome T. and Sarah E. Kepner five children have been born. Mary Alice is the wife of E. E. Collins, and they reside in Bloomington, where he is living a retired life. Dora E. is the wife of S. M. Snively, and they have one child, Lyle K. Their home is in White Oak township, where he is engaged in farming. Lillie married George H. Johnson, and their two children are Pearl and Chester. They live in Dry Grove township. Maude F. married Charles O. Myers, and they also reside in Dry Grove township. Ivy died in infancy.

After his second marriage, Mr. Kepner returned to Peoria county and engaged in farming on rented land for four years, and then moved to Eppards Point township, Livingston county, Illinois, where he purchased land and resided there for fourteen years, his farm then consisting of two hundred and forty acres. During the most of that time he gave special attention to stock-raising, breeding pure draft horses, and also cattle and hogs. In 1883 he sold his farm in Livingston county and purchased one hundred and fifty-six acres of land in Dry

Grove township, and located thereon. Since that time by additional purchases, he has acquired in all three hundred and fifty acres of excellent farming land, all of which is under cultivation. In addition to his farm, he has several thousand dollars worth of personal property, thus showing that he has prospered well in life.

Politically Mr. Kepner is a Republican, with which party he has affiliated since casting his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln. While residing in Livingston county he was road commissioner nine years, and has served about the same length of time in McLean county. He has been school trustee for twelve years, and school director for several years. He is a member of the Mennonite church, while his wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is connected with the Mutual Insurance Company of Stanford, Illinois. No family in Dry Grove township are held in higher regard.

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**H**ARRISON HOUSER is classed among the successful farmers of McLean county, with whose agricultural interests he has been prominently identified since the 7th of March, 1852, at which time he took up his residence here, but he is now practically living retired upon his fine farm of two hundred and sixty-five acres on section 16, Randolph township, eight miles from Bloomington. He is well worthy of notice in a work of this kind and to be ranked among the men who have distinguished themselves as useful and enterprising citizens.

Mr. Houser was born in Jessamine county, Kentucky, September 15, 1830, and is a son of Peter Houser, whose birth

occurred in the same state in 1799. His grandfather, Abraham Houser, Jr., was a native of Maryland, while the great-grandfather, Abraham Houser, Sr., was born on the River Rhine, in Germany, and on crossing the Atlantic to the new world took up his residence in Maryland among its early settlers and there reared his family. His son Abraham went to Kentucky when a young man, and as a pioneer opened up one of the first farms in Jessamine county. In 1835 he came to Illinois and spent his last days in Logan county.

In his native state Peter Houser grew to manhood and married Sarah Horine, a native of Jessamine county and a daughter of Henry Horine, who was also of German ancestry. For several years Mr. Houser engaged in farming and the rope and bagging business in Jessamine county, but in 1853 came to McLean county, Illinois, having two years previously purchased sixty-five acres of the farm where our subject now resides, while on a visit to this locality. Our subject had settled here in 1852 and commenced to break and improve the land before the father and the other members of the family arrived. In 1854 the father built a good frame house upon his farm, and later purchased one hundred and ten acres adjoining and entered from the government three hundred and twenty acres in West township. He successfully operated his land until called from this life in 1863. His wife survived him a number of years, dying in 1889, and was laid to rest by his side in Bloomington cemetery, where a neat and substantial monument has been erected to their memory. In the family of this worthy couple were five children, two sons and three daughters, all of whom reached adult age. They were as follows: Maggie, who

died unmarried; Mrs. Mary Jane Smith, a widow residing in Kansas City; Harrison, of this sketch; Melinda, wife of William Rayburn, of Kansas City, and Peter, a business man of Chicago.

In the county of his nativity, Harrison Houser passed his boyhood and youth in much the usual manner of farmer boys of his day, and as he only attended schools to a limited extent, the greater part of his education has been acquired by reading and observation in subsequent years. He assisted his father in converting the wild land into a rich and productive farm, and at the latter's death succeeded to the old homestead, which he still owns. For many years he successfully carried on general farming and stock-raising, but since 1897 has practically lived retired, leaving the active labors of the farm to younger hands, though he still oversees its operation to some extent.

On the 1st of October, 1857, in Clermont county, Ohio, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Houser and Miss Eliza Hoover, who was born, reared and educated there, and prior to her marriage successfully engaged in teaching both in Ohio and Illinois. Her father, John R. Hoover, was a substantial farmer of Clermont county. Mrs. Houser died December 11, 1897, and was laid to rest in Bloomington cemetery. Of the five children born to our subject and his wife, Flora is now the wife of Einory Orendorf, of Bloomington; Agnes married F. O. Lash, of that city, and died August 26, 1897; Anna is the wife of A. M. Reed, who lives on the Houser farm; Eva B., a graduate of the Normal College, is now one of the popular teachers of Bloomington; Melvin W., who operates the home farm, married Belle Brindley and has one son, Melvin.

Since casting his first presidential ballot for John C. Fremont, in 1856, Mr. Houser has been a staunch supporter of the Republican party and its principles until 1896, when he voted for William J. Bryan. He has served as a delegate to numerous county conventions of his party, and has always taken an active and influential part in local politics. For four years he most creditably served as justice of the peace of Randolph township, and has been a member of the school board for thirteen years and as president of the board of directors. In whatever position he has been called upon to fill he has discharged its duties in a most commendable and satisfactory manner and has gained the support and confidence of the entire community. For almost half a century he has been a resident of the county and has not only witnessed the wonderful transformation that has taken place in that time, but has always borne his part in the work of upbuilding and progress, and is justly numbered among the most valuable and useful citizens of Randolph township.

**J**OHN JOSEPH PITTS, a well known and prominent citizen of Bloomington, and the owner of the McLean county abstracts, has a wide reputation as a most capable financier, and occupies a position of no little prominence in connection with political affairs. His life demonstrates what may be accomplished through energy, careful management, keen foresight and the utilization of the powers with which nature has endowed one and the opportunities with which the times surround him.

Mr. Pitts is a native of this county, born in McLean township October 20, 1853, and is a representative of an old Massachusetts

family which was founded in this country in colonial days. As his ancestors were among those who fought for the freedom of the colonies, he is eligible to membership in the Sons of the American Revolution. His father, Joseph A. Pitts, was born in Dighton, Massachusetts, November 14, 1823, was there reared and educated, and in early life learned the blacksmith's trade. For a number of years he was employed as engineer in the woolen mills at Dighton, and in 1849 he went to California in search of gold, returning to his native state in 1852. There he married Miss Betsy Valentine Peck, a daughter of Captain Peck, of Dighton, and soon after their marriage, in the fall of 1852, came to Illinois, locating in Fremont, Tazewell county, where they remained one winter. The following year they located upon a farm in Mt. Hope township, McLean county, where the father is now living, but the mother died in November, 1867. He transformed the wild prairie land into highly cultivated fields, and, as he prospered in his new home, he soon became one of the most extensive farmers of this locality, owning eight hundred acres of valuable land. He made many improvements upon his place, including the erection of fine and substantial buildings. In political sentiment he is a Democrat. In the family were four children: John Joseph, of this review; Elizabeth, at home; Lemira M., now the widow of Emmons Snow, of Canon City, Colorado; and Augustus D., a physician of Point Arena, California.

John J. Pitts began his education in the district schools near his childhood home, later attended the school at McLean, and then became a student in Shurtliff College, Upper Alton, Illinois, where he was graduated in 1877, and was granted the degrees



of A. B. and A. M. For four years he successfully engaged in teaching, having charge of one school the entire time, and then entered the law department of Wesleyan University, where he was graduated in June, 1883, with the degree of LL. B. He was admitted to the bar the same year, and began practice as a member of the firm of Pitts, Bent & Lindley, with which he was connected until 1888 and enjoyed a good practice. He then purchased the McLean county abstract books, which cover a large, wealthy and populous field, and has carried on a successful business, which is constantly increasing, as he has the only set of books in the county. He is also vice president and one of the directors of the Corn Belt Bank, of which he was one of the incorporators. This bank has a capital stock of one hundred thousand dollars, a surplus of fifty thousand, and pays three and one-half per cent dividend semi-annually. Mr. Pitts is also a director of the Home Telephone Company, which has the largest patronage in the city, and owns some valuable real estate in Bloomington. He is not only a successful and energetic business man, but is also a progressive and public-spirited citizen, who by his connection with various enterprises has done much to advance the city's welfare.

On the 14th of August, 1878, Mr. Pitts was united in marriage with Miss Mary E. Roberts, of Battle Creek, Michigan, a daughter of William S. Roberts, and they now have four children, namely: Henrietta Betsy, Florence S., Alice Frances and Joseph Augustus. The family hold membership in the Baptist church, in which Mr. Pitts has served as trustee and chairman of the board for ten years, during which time the new brick church was erected at a cost

of forty thousand dollars, and he was a member of the building committee. Among other improvements in the city with which he has been identified are the opera house, which, as a stockholder, he assisted in building. As a Democrat, he has always taken an active and influential part in local politics, and when a young man he was nominated for states attorney, and although not elected, he succeeded in reducing the regular twenty-seven hundred Republican majority to nine hundred. He has been chairman of the Democratic county central committee for years, and having a large number of precincts under his jurisdiction, he has had to give considerable attention to its work. He has also represented the sixth ward in the city council, and while a member of that body was chairman of the committee on public buildings, grounds and improvements, and a member of the license and judiciary committees. Socially he is also quite prominent, being past chancellor commander of the Knights of Pythias Lodge, a member of Custer Division, uniformed rank; past exalted ruler of the Benevolent and Patriotic Order of Elks, and a member of Bloomington Lodge, No. 43, F. & A. M.; and a member of the Scottish Rite bodies and the Peoria Consistory, Temple of the Mystic Shrine.

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JOHN W. ARNOLD, senior member of the firm of J. W. Arnold & Company, bankers, of Colfax, Illinois, and a well-known citizen of McLean county, was born in Culpepper county, Virginia, February 10, 1828, and is the son of Humphrey M. P. and Patsey (Maddox) Arnold, both of whom are also natives of the Old Domin-



ion, the former born in 1803, and the latter in 1809. They were the parents of fifteen children—John W., Sarah E., Humphrey B., Samuel, Robert H., Mary H., James C., Martha L., Catherine, Margaret A., Joseph J., George W., Mildred, Charles E., and Augusta. Of these Samuel, Mary F. and Augusta died in early childhood, while Margaret A. died after her marriage, and James C., who was a soldier in the civil war, was drowned in Washington Sound about 1887. The remainder are all yet living.

In 1830, when our subject was but two years of age, his parents removed to Licking county, Ohio, where his father engaged in farming. In that county John W. grew to manhood, and received his education in the common schools. As soon as old enough to follow the plow, or use the hoe, he was given his regular task in the cultivation of the home farm, his school days usually being in the winter months. Farming has since been his calling, in connection with other lines which are mentioned further along in this sketch.

While his Ohio home may have had some attractions for him, he felt that on the broad prairies of Illinois the opportunities would be much greater to make his way in life, and accordingly in 1851 he came to McLean county, Illinois, and one year later, on the 18th of November, 1852, he was united in marriage with Miss Mary M. Benson, oldest daughter of John and Penara (Hinshaw) Benson, of White Oak township. John Benson was born in Gibson county, Indiana, October 12, 1807, and resided there until twelve years of age, when he accompanied his parents to what was then Sangamon county, Illinois, but which now forms a part of Logan

county. Four years later he came with his father to McLean county, and assisted in preparing a home for the family in Blooming Grove, now Bloomington, after which they returned to Logan county and brought the family to their new home.

John Benson, Sr., the grandfather of Mrs. Arnold, was born in York county, Pennsylvania, March 1, 1778, his father, James Benson, being a soldier in the Revolutionary war. John Benson, Sr., married Sally Music. John Benson, Jr., the father of Mrs. Arnold, was a soldier in the Black Hawk war in 1832. He was married in 1830 to Penara Hinshaw, and they became the parents of twelve children, seven of whom are now living—Mary M., Robert M., Philip Y., Penina A., Adeline, Lucy F., and Emmitt L. Mr. Benson died March 19, 1875, and his wife March 10, 1899, when eighty-five years old. Two of the sons were soldiers in the civil war, Robert M. and Philip Y. The family on both sides were represented in the war of 1812.

To Mr. and Mrs. Arnold were born five children, as follows: John P., Sarah F., James R., Olive and Luella. Of these Olive died in her fifth year, and Luella in her third year. John P. married Miss Laura Clarke, of Grayville, Illinois, and they have three children, two sons and a daughter, namely: Harry A., Ida M. and Homer John. Sarah F. married Alonzo H. Eyman, now of Harristown, Illinois, and the proprietor of the Sunnyside Stock Farm, where he is engaged in breeding Aberdeen Angus cattle and fine horses. James R. is conducting a successful drug business in Colfax, and resides at home.

In 1854 Mr. Arnold purchased forty acres of land in White Oak township, which he sold two years later together with his in-

terest in a sawmill which he had been operating in company with a partner. He then erected another saw mill in partnership with his father and purchased some more land. He later sold the land and mill on account of poor health, and commenced trading in live stock, which he followed for a time with success. In 1878 he purchased three hundred acres of land in Lawndale township on sections 27 and 34, and also purchased a half-section in Iowa, in company with his brother. Later his son John P. purchased his brother's interest, and the father and son held the land until 1897, when they traded it for a quarter-section of land in Martin township, two miles southwest of Colfax.

In 1871 Mr. Arnold removed with his family to Eureka, in order to give his children the educational privileges of the college at that place. After remaining there eight years, they returned to the farm in Lawndale township, on which they lived until 1883 when they removed into the village of Colfax. While upon the farm made he a specialty of breeding first class Clydesdale and Percheron horses, in which line he still continued after his removal to the village. He also continued the active management of his farm until January, 1899, when he rented it out, that he might live a less active life.

Mr. Arnold has been prominently identified with the growth and prosperity of the village of Colfax since its inception. In company with his brother, George W., and son, John P., he organized the private bank in Colfax, and which is run under the firm name of J. W. Arnold & Co. The bank has weathered all financial storms successfully, and is conducted with ability in its details and active management by the son,

who is quite popular with the people of the village and vicinity.

The Arnolds have descended from the Germans, while the Bensons are of Scotch origin, the family emigrating from the south of Scotland to the north of Ireland, and thence to the United States, but on both sides they have become thoroughly Americanized. Commencing life with but little means, Mr. Arnold has by his energy and native ability, assisted by the wise counsels of his wife, been enabled to acquire a comfortable competency. He is a self-made man and in every sense that the term implies, and has been the "architect of his own fortune." He has ever been willing to lend a helping hand to those less fortunate, and by his genial disposition has made many friends. He, together with his wife, is a member of the Christian church, and for many years has served in the office of deacon. In his political views he is a stanch Republican, having voted with that party since its organization.

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C WESLEY STUBBLEFIELD, a representative and prominent citizen of Funks Grove township, whose home is on section 18, has throughout his active business life identified with the agricultural interests of that portion of the county, where he owns and operates a well-improved and valuable farm of three hundred acres—known as the old Robert Stubblefield homestead. Upon that place he was born April 19, 1851, a son of Robert and a brother of Honorable Ed Stubblefield, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume.

As soon as large enough to be of any assistance Mr. Stubblefield began to aid in the work of the home farm, and as he received

but limited school advantages, he is principally self-educated by reading and observation since arriving at years of maturity. After reaching man's estate he took charge of the farm, and after his father's death, June 8, 1870, he succeeded to the place, upon which he has made many improvements which add greatly to its value and attractive appearance. He has remodeled the residence, erected outbuildings, set out an orchard and ornamental trees besides much small fruit, and converted the farm into one of the best and most desirable in the county.

In Mt. Hope township, McLean county, Mr. Stubblefield was married, December 22, 1873, to Miss Harriet Land, who was born in Kentucky, but was reared here, her father, Howard Land, having come to the county at an early day and settled south of Bloomington. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Stubblefield are Jessie, Robert Howard, Seth and Olive, all at home.

Since casting his first presidential ballot for Abraham Lincoln, in 1864, Mr. Stubblefield has been a staunch supporter of the men and measures of the Republican party but has never sought nor desired the honors or emoluments of public office. As a friend of education he has, however, served for eighteen years as a member of the school board and clerk of the district. He is a thorough and systematic farmer, who has witnessed almost the entire growth and development of his native county, and has ever born his part in its upbuilding and advancement. He has herded cattle upon the prairie when it was still government land, and has seen the wolves, deer and other wild game disappear at the advancement of civilization. He is a man of exemplary habits and upright character, and like his

brothers, George, Isaac and Ed, is strictly temperate, never using intoxicants and tobacco in any form. He is widely and favorably known and justly merits the high regard in which he is held by all with whom he comes in contact, either in business or social life.

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**JUDGE ALFRED SAMPLE.** In the last half of the present century the lawyer has been a pre-eminent factor in all affairs of private concern and national importance. He has been depended upon to conserve the best and permanent interests of the whole people and is a recognized power in all the avenues of life. He stands as the protector of the rights and liberties of his fellow men and is the representative of a profession whose followers, if they would gain honor, fame and success, must be men of merit and ability. Such a one is Judge Sample who, as a jurist, won high commendation by his fair and impartial administration of justice, and he is now successfully engaged in private practice with John J. Morris at Bloomington.

The Judge was born in Butler county, Ohio, November 27, 1846, and is a son of James and Jane (Beard) Sample, natives of Kentucky and Virginia, respectively. In 1857 they removed to Livingston county, Illinois. Both were earnest and faithful members of the Presbyterian church. By occupation he was a farmer and stock-dealer and was also interested in railroad business. The paternal grandfather of our subject, David Sample, was a native of Scotland, and belonged to an old and highly-respected family of that country. On coming to the United States he located in Kentucky.



Judge Sample was reared on a farm. In 1857 he accompanied his parents on their removal to Livingston county, Illinois. In November, 1863, when but sixteen years of age, he enlisted in Company G, One Hundred Twenty-ninth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and went immediately into active service. He participated in General Sherman's campaign in the march to Atlanta. In the battle of Resaca he was severely wounded in both arms and breast, and as one arm was broken, he was unfitted for further duty and was honorably discharged December 6, 1864. After his return home, he entered Eureka College, where he pursued his studies for three years, and was later a student in Monmouth College, where he completed his education, giving special attention to the classics and mathematics. While in college he taught at intervals during his vacations and for one year after leaving school. He then read law in the office of the noted Colonel Robert G. Ingersoll, at Peoria, and was admitted to the bar in 1871.

The same year Judge Sample located at Paxton, Illinois. During his residence there he served as presidential elector for Garfield in 1880; was state's attorney from 1872 until 1880, and city attorney from 1873 until 1877. His fellow citizens recognizing his worth and ability, elected him circuit judge of the eleventh judicial circuit, then comprising the counties of McLean, Ford, Livingston, Kankakee and Iroquois, and he held that position from June, 1885, to June, 1897. In June, 1891, he was also appointed by the supreme court as one of the judges of the fourth appellate district, and held that office for six years. On retiring to private life on the expiration of that term, he came to Bloomington and

formed a partnership with John J. Morrissey, which connection still continues. They enjoy an extensive practice in all the courts and are recognized as two of the ablest lawyers in the city.

Judge Sample married Miss Florence A. Cook, a daughter of Colonel H. D. Cook, who was brought prominently before the people in the civil war and is well known in state history. Two children were born of this union, Florence and Lois, and they have a pleasant home at 612 East Locust. Socially the Judge was made a Mason in Paxton Lodge, F. & A. M., of Paxton, and is a prominent member of the Grand Army of the Republic. He is a genial, courteous gentleman, a pleasant and entertaining companion, and has many staunch and admiring friends among all classes. As an energetic, upright and conscientious lawyer, and a gentleman of attractive social qualities, he stands high in the estimation of the entire community.

MARION PARR, who is engaged in farming and stock raising one and a half miles south of Cooksville, Blue Mound township, was born near Green Valley, Tazewell county, Illinois, March 6, 1867, and is the son of Nathan J. Parr, who was born near Circleville, Ohio, March 14, 1840, and there lived with his parents until he was sixteen years of age, when he accompanied them to Tazewell county, Illinois, remaining with them until he attained his majority. He then went to Macon county, Illinois, and renting a farm, was there married to Miss Ellen Reynolds in 1865. She was born near Circleville, Ohio, and came to Illinois in her childhood. To them were born the following named children: Franklin, who



is now a successful lawyer in Fort Dodge, Iowa; Marion, the subject of this sketch; Harry, who left home when fifteen years of age, and George, who is living at home with his parents in Macon county. Returning to Tazewell county in 1866, he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land, which he sold in 1872 and moved to McLean county and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land which he traded for the farm on which his son Marion now resides. Later he went to Macon county and located near Argenta, where he is now an extensive land owner.

The subject of this sketch was reared on a farm, and received his education in a district school of McLean county. He lived at home, and assisted his father in farm work, until he arrived at his majority, when his father returned to Macon county, when he rented from him the farm in Blue Mound township, and commenced life for himself, doing general farming and stock raising. In the latter line of his business he makes a specialty of Galloway cattle, which he raises for beef, cream and robes, and he has been enabled to bring his stock up to a very high standard.

Mr. Parr was married April 15, 1891, to Miss Edna M. Brigham, who was born February 5, 1871, and daughter of Benajah and Elizabeth Brigham, old settlers of Blue Mound township. By this union two children have been born: Leland W., November 2, 1893, and Arthur Eldon, February 5, 1896. The parents are members of the Church of Christ, in which Mr. Parr is an elder. In politics he is a Republican, although he is not a politician. He is not a member of any lodge, as he thinks his time can be more profitably spent at home. He operates the farm with the help of two men,

He has been able to bring his farm to a high state of cultivation, is a progressive farmer, using the most improved machinery in the working of the same. He believes that the farmers of central Illinois should pay more attention to stock raising in order to keep up the fertility of their land, and that it is more profitable to raise a good class of stock than poor ones. He believes the growing of corn and cattle should go "hand in hand," in proof of which he has named his herd "The Corn Belt Herd of Galloway Cattle."

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JOHN HESTER, a prominent and successful merchant of Anchor, has by his energy, perseverance and fine business ability secured a comfortable competence. Systematic and methodical, his sagacity, keen discrimination and sound judgment have made him one of the prosperous business men of the community.

Mr. Hester was born near Salem, North Carolina, March 5, 1852, a son of W. C. and Caroline (Farral) Hester, natives of the same state. The father, who was a carpenter by trade, served through the Mexican war under General Scott, and later when the civil war broke out he was drafted into the southern army. He was a Union man, but was taken from his home and made to enter the Confederate service. He was killed in the battle of the Wilderness.

Our subject was the only child of his parents, and was but three years old when his mother died and nine when he lost his father. He was thrown upon his own resources at a very tender age. He was educated in the common schools of his native place and remained in the south until about twenty years of age when he came to Illi-

nois and found employment in Warren county, as a farm hand, remaining there about nine years. In 1880 he was united in marriage with Miss Eva E. Brown, of Livingston county, Illinois, who was born in Ohio, in 1863, a daughter of C. H. and Sarah A. Brown, also natives of the Buckeye state and farming people. From La Salle county her parents removed to Livingston county, this state, where her father was quite an extensive land owner, but they now reside in Keith county, Nebraska, where he owns a half-section of land. Mr. and Mrs. Hester have five children: Bertie, born in October, 1881; Lucy A., in December, 1882; Charles H., in 1884; William C., in 1886; and Lee, in 1895. The older children are now attending the high school in Anchor, and Bertie and Lucy stood the highest in the school in their examinations at the close of the term in 1899. The former also ranked sixth out of the one hundred and six who were examined by the county superintendent of Bloomington. The family is one of which any parents might be justly proud.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Hester located on a farm of eighty acres given them by her father, and there our subject successfully engaged in general farming until 1894, when he moved to Anchor, having on the 1st of January, of that year, purchased an interest in a general mercantile store with a Mr. Worley. He also bought a house and lot in the village, for a home, and in 1897 sold the farm, putting the money into the business, which he has greatly enlarged and to which he now gives his entire time and attention. He has met with some reverses in his business career, as his store and contents, together with several other buildings in the locality were destroyed by fire a few years ago. This property

was valued at thirty-five thousand dollars and was only partially covered by insurance. Mr. Hester's store, which was three stories in height, with a basement, was fully stocked with about ten thousand dollars worth of goods, insured for five thousand, which were entirely destroyed, together with two houses which were his personal property, his loss amounting to forty-two hundred dollars. He has never rebuilt but rents another store, which he has stocked with a complete line of general merchandise. His establishment would do credit to a town many times the size of Anchor, as it is complete in all its departments and up with the times in every particular. His patronage comes from a territory many miles in extent, and the business policy which he has maintained has brought him prosperity. In politics he is a Democrat but would never accept any political office, preferring to give his whole time to his business interests. Socially he belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Encampment and the Rebeccas.

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**T**HEODORE SYLVESTER SMITH, a leading and representative citizen of Cropsey township, was born in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, January 21, 1842, a son of John and Rachel (Easley) Smith, of whom extended mention is made in the sketch of John A. Smith on another page of this volume. John Smith was born January 22, 1811, while his wife was born on November 21, 1808. They removed with their family to this state in 1856, and settled in Old Town township, McLean county, where the father rented land of Abraham Jones. On account of the failure of the wheat crop

in 1857, he became in debt to that gentleman to the extent of fifteen hundred dollars, but this was paid off during the seven years he rented land from him. Later he purchased a farm of his own and successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits throughout the remainder of his life. He died September 21, 1885—she died September 14, 1883.

Our subject began his education in the district schools of Pennsylvania and completed it in this county, attending school after he attained his twenty-fifth year, as he unfortunately had been injured so that he was unable to engage in hard work and resolved to devote his time to improving his mind. He remained with his parents upon the home farm until about forty-five years of age, and after their deaths returned to the old homestead in Pennsylvania on a visit, remaining there two months. On again coming to Illinois he rented the farm on which he now lives, and though unable to perform much of the work himself, he has been most successful in its management. In connection with general farming he is also interested in stock raising.

In 1888 Mr. Smith married Mrs. Laura A. Jones, widow of Levi P. Jones, who died in 1877. Her parents, John A. and Lucy Austin, were born, reared and married in Virginia, and from that state removed to Ohio in 1852. Five years later they came to Illinois, and after renting land for a time the father purchased eighty acres in Cropsey township, McLean county, on which he made his home until called from this life in 1879. The mother is still living and now makes her home with her children. To them were born four sons and four daughters of whom George died at the age of fifteen years and Mrs. Annie Taylor died at the age of thirty-five. Those living are Philip, a

farmer of Missouri; James, a teamster of Colfax, Illinois; Henry, a carpenter of Anchor, Illinois; Mary, wife of P. J. Decker; a successful farmer of Cropsey township; Harriet, wife of Howland Bedell, a farmer of Lawndale township; and Laura, wife of our subject. By her first husband Mrs. Smith had two children: Lucy, who died at the age of nine years; and Frank, a resident of Anchor township. She also has two children by her marriage to our subject: Ella May, born January 12, 1889; and Albert B., born January 16, 1891.

In his political views Mr. Smith is a Democrat, but has always refused to accept office. He is a member of the Catholic church, while his wife holds membership in the Methodist Episcopal church. They have a wide circle of friends and acquaintances throughout their section of the county and are held in high regard by all who know them.

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JOHN JEFFRIES, one of the young and enterprising farmers of McLean county, owns and operates a farm of one hundred and sixty acres of land on sections 2 and 11, Blue Mound township, the family residence being on the latter section. He was born in Dawson township, McLean county, April 26, 1863, and is the son of Philip Jeffries, who was born in England, but who came to the United States when quite young, locating near Scranton, Pennsylvania, from which locality, in a few years, he moved to McLean county, Illinois. In Pennsylvania he worked at the blacksmith trade, but after going to Ohio he engaged in farming, an occupation in which he continued after his removal to this county. On coming to McLean county he purchased a farm of one



hundred and forty acres, lying in Blue Mound and Martin townships, which he put under excellent improvements, erecting all the necessary outbuildings, and tilling the land. He is now living retired in the village of Cooksville, renting out the home place.

While residing in Ohio, Philip Jeffries was united in marriage with Miss Belle Morrison, a native of Scotland, of Scotch-Irish descent, who came to this country when she was quite young. By this marriage they became the parents of seven children, four of whom are now living: Mary A., living with her father; Eva A., wife of John Scott, a farmer living near Lincoln, Nebraska; John, the subject of this sketch; and Charles, of Cooksville. George died June 21, 1899. The mother of these children died at their home in Blue Mound township, in 1895.

The subject of this sketch was reared on his father's farm in Dawson township, and in the district schools received a common-school education. He remained at home until he was of legal age, when he rented land and commenced farming and stock raising for himself. He continued to rent until 1891 when he purchased eighty acres on section 11, Blue Mound township, which he commenced to cultivate. Notwithstanding the hard times that followed shortly after he made his purchase, and the very low prices prevailing for almost all kinds of farm produce, he was quite successful, and in 1898 purchased eighty acres more lying in section 2. Upon both tracts he has made some excellent improvements, including a fine country home on section 11. He is thoroughly progressive and the improvements made are such as would be expected of an up-to-date farmer in the closing years of the nineteenth century.

On the 4th of March, 1886, Mr. Jeffries was united in marriage with Miss Stella Johnson, daughter of Philip and Elizabeth Johnson, who were among the early settlers of McLean county. By this union there have been born five children: Ira, born January 20, 1887; Perry, July 2, 1889; Clarence, November 4, 1895; Earl, July 28, 1897; and Bessie, June 28, 1899. The oldest boys are now attending the district school, and the parents propose to give them the best educational advantages.

Mrs. Jeffries is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and Mr. Jeffries is a supporter of the same. In politics he is a Republican, and he has held the office of road commissioner a couple of years, and has also served as school director some years, as he feels a deep interest in the common-school system of this state. Commencing life without means and on a rented farm, his success is worthy of the man, and shows that the time has not passed, as some would have us believe, when there is no more opportunities for one to succeed in life. In the face of the hard times he has made a success, and it is because of his industry and his steadfast determination to succeed.

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**W**ILLIAM D. NICKERSON, who has spent his entire life in McLean county, now owns and operates a farm of one hundred and sixty-five acres on section 36, Funk's Grove township, and which lies within five miles of the village of Heyworth, which is his postoffice address. He was born in Randolph township, October 31, 1847, and is the son of Albert R. and Ellen (Cook) Nickerson, the former born in Salisbury, Maryland, October 23, 1810, and the latter born in Hamilton county, Ohio, Oc-





WM. D. NICKERSON AND WIFE.

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tober 14, 1820. Her parents, however, were numbered among the early settlers of McLean county, locating here when Ellen was but thirteen years of age. The paternal grandfather, James Alexander Nickerson, came to McLean county in an early day, locating in Blooming Grove, where he remained three years, and then removed to Davis county, Missouri, settling in Pattonsburg, afterwards called Coffeetown.

Albert R. Nickerson purchased land and made a permanent home in Randolph township, but also owned a section of land in Arrowsmith township, and a considerable amount elsewhere. He was one of the most successful farmers of the county, and died in the village of Heyworth, November 1, 1886. His wife survives him, and makes her home in Heyworth. They were the parents of seven sons and three daughters, of whom six sons are now living, as follows: John, of Colfax, Illinois; James A., of Webster City, Iowa; Charles, who grew to mature years, but died leaving a wife and two children; George H., of Heyworth; William D., of this review; Samuel, of Bloomington; Benjamin F., of Webster City, Iowa; Mary J., who died in childhood; Sarah married Albert Stillman, and is now deceased; and Martha E., who married Arthur Demmitt, of Bloomington, but who is now deceased.

William D. Nickerson grew to manhood on his father's farm in Randolph township, and was educated in the common schools. He remained with his parents until after he attained his majority, assisting in the cultivation of the home farm. After the removal of his parents to Heyworth, he carried on the farm for three years, then rented another farm for one year. He has been twice married, first in Randolph township with Miss Nora Simerson, in February,

1877. She was a native of this county. After marriage, they located in Arrowsmith township, where he engaged in farming for one year on a portion of his father's land. He then moved to his present farm, eighty acres of which he inherited from his father's estate. He later purchased an adjoining eighty-five acres, and has here since continued to reside, with the exception of the time mentioned in this sketch.

In January, 1885, Mrs. Nora Nickerson departed this life, and after her death Mr. Nickerson rented his place for one year. He then returned and resumed his farming operations, and February 23, 1887, he was united in marriage with Miss Laura E. Martin, of Heyworth, who was also a native of Randolph township, born and reared near the village of Heyworth. After his second marriage, Mr. Nickerson again rented his farm and moved to Heyworth to take care of his mother, where he lived for four years. In 1891 he returned once more to the farm, and during the season built the barn which is now on the place. He then rented the farm and moved to the Isaac Vanorstand farm, where he remained two years, since which time he has been living on his own farm, engaged in general farming and stock raising.

Politically Mr. Nickerson is a life-long Democrat, and cast his first presidential ballot for Horatio Seymour in 1868. Office holding never had any attraction for him, as he cared more for his business interests than for the honors attached to local official positions. He is a member of no church, but his wife holds membership with the Presbyterian church of Heyworth. He has a just pride in his native county, which has now been his home for fifty-two years, considering it the best county in the entire state. He has grown with its growth, and has been

an eye witness to nearly all the changes that have been made, and in the work accomplished he has endeavored to do his part.

**E**NOS HALE FARNSWORTH, an honored and highly respected citizen of McLean, who is now living retired from active business life, was born in St. Charles, Missouri, January 25, 1825, and is a son of Enos Farnsworth, whose parents were Stephen and Deborah (Bennett) Farnsworth, both natives of Vermont, the latter born of English parentage. The father of our subject was born in Woodstock, Vermont, was a man of good education, and for a time was engaged in the newspaper business in Kingston, Canada. While there he married Miss Frances Hale, also a native of the Green Mountain state, born in Rutland. She acquired a good education and successfully engaged in teaching school in early life. She came of good old Revolutionary stock, tracing her ancestry back to Nathan Hale, of Revolutionary fame, who, when being hung as a spy by the British, "regretted that he had but one life to give for his country." Soon after his marriage, the father of our subject moved to New York state, and later, with a two-horse team, to Missouri, locating about forty miles west of St. Charles, where he opened up a farm and made his home until his death in August, 1824. He left one daughter, Sarah A., now deceased, who was the wife of Augustus Verry, of Tazewell county, Illinois. Our subject was born after his father's death. After the death of her husband Mrs. Farnsworth returned east, and after residing for a few years in Canada came to Jacksonville, Illinois. Her last days were spent with her son, our subject,

and her daughter in Tazewell county. She died in Tazewell county at the home of the latter in 1871.

After his father's death our subject lived for a time with an uncle in Detroit, Michigan, and Potsdam, New York, and later with an uncle on a farm in Vermont. He was given good school advantages. In early life he went to Picktoun, Canada, where he learned the cabinet-maker's trade and also worked on a farm to some extent. He then returned to New York and later made a few trips on the Great Lakes as a sailor. In December, 1844, he came to Illinois, and for six years he worked on a farm in Tazewell county. He made an overland trip to California with an ox team during the gold excitement in that state, leaving Armington, Illinois, March 18, 1850, and arriving on the Pacific slope on the 9th of the following September. He went to work in the mines at Placerville, and for over a year he engaged in mining in that state with fair success. He returned to his home in Illinois by way of the Isthmus of Panama, Kingston, Jamaica, the West Indies and New York, arriving here in November, 1851. As has already been stated, much of his early life was spent in travel, having been in twenty-two states and territories, Canada, Mexico, Central America, and the West Indies prior to his marriage.

It was in McLean county, October 7, 1852, that Mr. Farnsworth wedded Miss Sarah Ann Longworth, a native of Morgan county, Ohio, and a sister of D. N. Longworth, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. He had previously purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Mt. Hope township, upon which they began their domestic life. In 1867 he sold that place and purchased another farm of the



same size near McLean, only a mile from the village, and to its further improvement and cultivation he devoted his time and attention for many years. He built thereon a nice residence, good barns and outbuildings, set out an orchard, small fruit and shade trees, making it one of the most desirable farms of its size in the locality. He actively engaged in farming there until 1897, when he rented the place and has since lived retired, enjoying a well earned rest.

Mrs. Farnsworth died in Bloomington July 12, 1897, and her remains were interred in Mt. Hope cemetery. The three children born to our subject and his wife were as follows: Clara is now the wife of Charles G. Pumphrey, who owns a valuable farm in Funks Grove township, and they have two sons, Robert E. and Ralph. (2) Terah married Effie M. Kinsey, daughter of Captain Kinsey, who is represented on another page of this volume, and to them were born two daughters, Vere and Ilma. He carried on the home farm for his father until his death, caused from an accident, February 17, 1897, at the early age of thirty-two years. He was an active and prominent member of the Odd Fellows Lodge of McLean, in which he served as past grand, and filled all the offices with the exception of state lecturer. (3) Sarah Frances, the younger daughter of our subject, is the wife of A. H. Linebarger, a prominent business man of Bloomington, and they have one son, Herbert R.

Since the death of his son, Mr. Farnsworth has rented his farm and made his home with his daughter in McLean. In early life he was a Whig in political sentiment, but has supported the Republican party since its organization in 1856, voting for John C. Fremont that year and for every

presidential candidate of the party since then. He has taken an active and commendable interest in public affairs; served as township trustee twenty years and as assessor two years, with credit to himself and to the entire satisfaction of all concerned. He has also been a delegate to numerous county conventions of his party. He is an earnest Christian gentleman and one of the original members of the Methodist Episcopal church of McLean, with which he united in 1852. In January, 1898, he joined the Odd Fellows Lodge at that place, in which he has served as chaplain, and is also a member of the encampment and the Rebecca order. He is widely known and is held in high regard by all who have the pleasure of his acquaintance.

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**HON. ROLLAND A. RUSSELL.**  
Faithfulness to duty and strict adherence to a fixed purpose in life will do more to advance a man's interests than wealth or adventitious circumstances. The successful men of the day are those who have planned their own advancement and have accomplished it in spite of many obstacles and with a certainty that could have been attained only through their own efforts. This class of men has a worthy representative in Judge Russell, who has risen to distinction as an eminent lawyer and jurist, and is now serving as county judge of McLean county for both probate and common law jurisdiction.

The Judge was born in Windsor, Shelby county, Illinois, December 10, 1860, a son of Samuel C. and Emily A. (Arbuckle) Russell. The paternal great-grandfather was a soldier of the Revolutionary war, and the grandfather, Andrew J. Russell, was one of

the defenders of the new republic during the war of 1812. At an early day the latter removed from Pennsylvania, where the family had previously made their home, to Sidney, Shelby county, Ohio, becoming one of the pioneers of that region. There he cleared and developed a farm, and in connection with its cultivation also worked at the carpenter's trade.

Samuel C. Russell, the father of our subject, was born in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, in 1823, and was six years of age when the family removed to Sidney, Shelby county, Ohio. He was almost wholly self-educated, his knowledge of books being mostly obtained after reaching the age of twenty-one, but he became a man of broad general information and sound judgment, and was an extensive and successful farmer. In 1854 he was united in marriage with Miss Emily A. Arbuckle, who was born in Hagerstown, Maryland, in 1831, a daughter of Elisha J. Arbuckle, one of the early residents of Shelby county, Ohio, originally from Maryland. To them were born three children, who reached the age of maturity: Roland A., our subject; William Albert, a resident of Francisville, Indiana; and Caddie B., wife of Jacob Jones, of Windsor, Illinois. The same year of their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Russell removed to Shelby county, Illinois, where the father continued farming and stock-raising with marked success. He took quite an active interest in educational affairs and filled a number of school offices, but never cared for political preferment. He was a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal church, took an active part in its work as a church officer, and his house was always the home of the early ministers. He died March 13, 1894, honored and respected by all who knew him. His estimable wife

is still living and continues to make her home in Windsor.

Reared on the home farm, Judge Russell began his literary education in the country school south of Windsor, and in the spring of 1880 entered the preparatory department of the Wesleyan University at Bloomington. He paid his own way through college by teaching and working on the farm, and was finally graduated with honors in 1887, receiving the degree of A. B. He stood well in his classes, especially in mathematics, and after his graduation was offered the chair of mathematics in that institution. He was a member of the Phi Gamma Delta Society and also the Adelphic Literary Society. For two years after leaving school he had charge of the Greenfield high school in Green county, Illinois, and in the fall of 1889 entered the Wesleyan Law School, where he was graduated in 1891, with the degree of LL. B., having previously received the degree of A. M.

After his admission to the bar, Judge Russell spent three months in Salt Lake City, and on his return to Bloomington in November, 1891, he entered the office of Benjamin & Morrissey, where he remained for one year. He was then engaged in the abstract business with L. H. Weldon until the summer of 1795, when he entered the office of Welty & Sterling, being engaged in practice for himself and meeting with excellent success for a young man.

During this time Judge Russell had taken an active and prominent part in Republican politics, and in the spring of 1896 he was elected chairman of the McLean county Republican committee, in which capacity he bore an important part in the McKinley campaign in this section. As the result of his untiring labor, the county was better

organized than ever before and the party received the phenomenal majority of three thousand seven hundred and twenty-three, the usual majority being less than two thousand. He came in close touch with over two thousand campaign workers, which shows that the work was most systematically and thoroughly conducted. He also spoke a number of times in different parts of the county and in organizing visited all of the towns. On the resignation of Judge Myers he was elected county judge in June, 1897, to fill the unexpired term, and in 1898 was re-elected by a good majority.

He is absolutely fearless in the discharge of his duties and when his cases have been carried to the supreme court most of his decisions have been affirmed. He possesses a mind practically free from judicial bias, and brings to his duties a most thorough knowledge of the law and of human nature, a comprehensive mind, and calm and deliberate judgment. Since 1894 he has been one of the professors in the Wesleyan Law School, lecturing on elementary and criminal law, personal property, probate and wills.

On the 23d of November, 1892, Judge Russell was united in marriage with Miss Anna Jessett, a daughter of Robert Jessett, of Bloomington, and they now have two children: Helen and Raymond J. They belong to the First Methodist Episcopal church and the judge is now a member of the official board. He is also a member of the Alumni Literary Club; Bloomington Lodge, No. 400, I. O. O. F.; and Jesse Fell Lodge, No. 164, K. P., of which he is past chancellor and an active member. He is a genial, courteous gentleman, a pleasant, entertaining companion, and has many staunch and admiring friends among

all classes of men. As an energetic, upright and conscientious lawyer, and a gentleman of attractive social qualities, he stands high in the estimation of the community.

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**A** BRAHAM STEPHENS is now living a retired life, having through marked energy and business ability acquired a handsome competence that now enables him to put aside arduous cares and duties. He has become an extensive land owner, having some very valuable property in McLean county and elsewhere which yields to him a good income. Mr. Stephens was born near Binghamton, Broome county, New York, November 10, 1826. His parents were Obediah and Polly (Winfield) Stephens, both natives of New Jersey. The father was born in 1796 and died in 1876. By trade he was a carpenter, and during the war of 1812 he loyally served his country as a member of the army. In connection with his other business interests he also carried on farming on a small scale. His first wife died when our subject was only two years of age, and he afterward married Mrs. Sarah A. Guernsey, by whom he had one daughter, Polly, who is now living in Chenango county, New York. By the first marriage there were six children: Hannah, married Alpha Squire, and lives at St. Joseph, Missouri; Sarah Ann, wife of Elias Gaylord, who died in 1897. She is living in New York, and by her marriage had three children, two of whom are living. Fannie died in childhood. Richard is living on a farm in Yates township, McLean county, now owned by our subject. He married Sarah Mayo, and to them were born seven children, five of whom are living, namely:



Addie, Frank, Wilbur, Nellie, wife of Clinton Graves, of Stark county, and Luella Delbert, died young. Jennie died at the age of twenty-five or twenty-six.

Abraham Stephens acquired his education in the home schools, and remained under the paternal roof until he had attained his majority. He worked at the carpenter's trade with his father and then went to Addison, New York, where he secured employment at twelve dollars per month and board. Subsequently he was employed near Woodhull, where he followed carpentering during the summer, and then returned to Addison, where he entered the employ of the Erie Railroad Company, working on depots and buildings for two years. He was then engaged on the construction of the bridge which crosses the Genesee river at Portage, and is two hundred and thirty-four feet above the water. He followed bridge building for a number of years, being employed on the construction of the bridge at Jordan as overseer, in which capacity he also labored at Rochester, New York. In 1853 he went to Alexandria, Virginia, where he worked on seven large bridges for the Orange and Alexandria railroad. There they pulled the lumber out of the river, having been sawed previously. In 1855, however, Mr. Stephens abandoned bridge building and came to Illinois. In 1856 he was employed on the construction of the Congregational church and some mills in Oneida, Knox county, superintending this work in the capacity of overseer.

In 1858 he made his first purchase of land, paying eighteen hundred dollars for eighty acres. On selling that tract he purchased another eighty acres of improved land, to which he added forty acres, but in 1870 he sold that farm for seventy-five dol-

lars per acre, and came to McLean county, where he had bought one hundred and sixty acres, the nucleus of his present-time farm. He now owns four hundred acres in one body, which is improved with substantial buildings and fine orchards. He rents the farm, while he lives retired from active business cares. From time to time, as his financial resources have increased, he has made other purchases, and is now an extensive land owner. He has one hundred and sixty acres of land under cultivation in Oswego township, Livingston county; two hundred and four acres in Wing, Livingston county; three hundred and twenty acres near Piper City, and one hundred and fifty-four acres in Yates township, in addition to the home place of four hundred acres. He has made valuable improvements upon his land, all of which is under a high state of cultivation, and from his property he derives a handsome income. He formerly carried on both grain and stock raising, and engaged in buying and shipping stock from Weston.

On the 10th of December, 1856, Mr. Stephens was united in marriage with Sarah A. Gloyd, who was born near Plainfield, Massachusetts, August 18, 1828. Her parents, Stephen and Hulda (Millard) Gloyd, were also natives of Plainfield, and had a family of eight children, namely: Joel, Amelia, Stephen; Sarah Ann, wife of our subject; Frank, who is living near Tacoma, Washington; Ellen, of Toledo, Ohio; Delos, and Julia. The parents of this family are both now deceased, the father having died while on a visit to his children in Illinois. Mrs. Stephens is a member of the Baptist church, and Mr. Stephens contributes liberally to its support. He became a member of the Grange when it was organized, and in politics he is a Democrat. He has served



as commissioner of highways for three years, and as school director for several years. In business he has met with gratifying and well-merited success. He possesses great energy, sound judgment and indefatigable industry; and these elements have brought to him a well-deserved prosperity, which now enables him to put aside all active labor to enjoy the competence which former toil has brought.

**WILLIAM THOMPSON.** The natural advantages attracted at an early day a superior class of settlers, thrifty, industrious, progressive and law-abiding, whose influence has given permanent direction to the development of the locality. Among these worthy pioneers the Thompson family holds a prominent place, and among its most worthy representatives is the subject of this review, who is now successfully carrying on operations as a general farmer on section 10, Randolph township, where he owns nearly six hundred acres. He has been a resident of this state since October, 1831, and has made his home in McLean county since the 5th of July, 1832.

Mr. Thompson was born in Butler county, Ohio, January 10, 1830, and is a son of George K. Thompson, who was born in Virginia, January 30, 1800. The grandfather, William Thompson, was also a native of the Old Dominion, his father having removed thither from North Carolina at an early day. In Monroe county, Virginia, George K. Thompson grew to manhood, and in Greenbrier county, that state, married Miss Anstis Collison, who was born in that county, January 9, 1810. Later they removed to Butler county, Ohio, and after living there for a few years came to Illinois

in 1831, spending the first winter here on the site of the present city of Washington. On the 5th of July, 1832, they unloaded their household effects within a few rods of the house where our subject now resides. The father purchased a claim with a double log house already erected upon it and about eight acres broken. He was not permitted to enjoy his home, however, as death claimed him in 1833, when he was only thirty-three years of age. His wife survived him some years and married again.

Our subject made his home with his mother and stepfather until grown, and as the schools of this region at that time were few and of a very inferior grade, his education was rather limited. On leaving the parental roof he engaged in farming upon rented land in this county for two years, and in 1852 went to Story county, Iowa, remaining until the spring of 1853, when he returned to McLean county, where he was married, and then returned to Iowa, and purchasing a claim near Ames he at once turned his attention to the improvement and cultivation of his place. Subsequently he entered more land and at one time owned four hundred and forty acres in that county, upon which he made many improvements in the way of farm buildings. He continued his residence in that county for fifteen years, but in 1867 sold his interests there and returned to McLean county, Illinois, having succeeded to one hundred and ninety-five acres in Randolph township. To this he has added from time to time until he now has five hundred and forty-two acres of excellent land, which he has placed under a high state of cultivation and improved with two sets of buildings. At first he resided upon the eastern part of the farm for about twenty-five years and then

removed to his present residence, which is a fine brick structure of modern style of architecture and is one of the most pleasant homes in the locality. In connection with general farming Mr. Thompson has always given considerable attention to raising and feeding stock for the market.

In Bloomington, on the 20th of October, 1853, Mr. Thompson married Miss Cassandra French, who was born in Belmont county, Ohio, but in 1840 was brought to this county by her father, William French. She died in Iowa May 23, 1856, leaving two children, namely: Oliver C., now a resident of Arizona, who is a civil engineer in the employ of a railroad company and is chief of the locating department; and Minerva, wife of Henry Tolbert, a farmer living near Des Moines, Iowa. Mr. Thompson was again married, in Story county, Iowa, March 4, 1858, his second union being with Miss Mary M. Jones, who was born and reared near Wooster, Wayne county, Ohio, and with her father, Thomas F. Jones, removed to Story county, Iowa. The children born of this marriage are as follows: Anstis F., wife of William H. Stewart, a substantial farmer of Randolph township, McLean county; Mary J., wife of James C. Wakefield, a farmer and business man of Heyworth; Mrs. Martha E. Pumphrey, at home with her parents; George K., a lawyer of Bloomington; Daniel W., who is a graduate of both the Normal College and the Wesleyan Law School, and is now aiding his father in the operation of the home farm; and Edith and Nellie, both at home.

Politically, Mr. Thompson is a Jeffersonian Democrat, and cast his first presidential vote for James Buchanan in 1856. While a resident of Story county, Iowa, he

took a very prominent part in public affairs, and his fellow citizens, recognizing his worth and ability, called him to important official positions. He served as circuit clerk for one term, during which time he made his home in the city of Nevada, and in this county he filled the office of justice of the peace for one term in a most creditable and acceptable manner, and as member of the school board a number of years and as president of the district board. He was also a member of the school board in Randolph township for many years. Fraternally, he is a Master Mason, and religiously his estimable wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. They are widely known and highly respected.

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GEORGE W. ARNOLD, who is engaged in the lumber business, and in contracting and building in Colfax, Illinois, was born in Licking county, Ohio, April 24, 1850, and is a son of Humphry M. P. and Patsey (Maddox) Arnold, of whom further mention is made in the sketch of John W. Arnold, on another page of this work. In 1853 the family came to McLean county and located near Bloomington, where George grew to manhood, and received his education in the public schools. He remained at home, assisting in farm work, until 1869, when he went to Lawndale township and purchased forty acres of raw prairie land, on which he turned the first furrow. For the next two years he worked by the day and month for various persons and at odd times engaged in the improvement of his small tract of land.

Mr. Arnold was married May 4, 1871, to Miss W. Isabelle King, the youngest

daughter of Reuben G. and W. Susan King, of Stout's Grove, in Danvers township, McLean county. Reuben G. King was born in Kentucky, January 18, 1811, and was educated in the schools of that state. He was a farmer by occupation, and by profession was a minister in the Christian Church. When a young man he came to Illinois and located in Sangamon county, and in the latter part of 1830 he married Susan Howell, also a native of Kentucky, born March 25, 1810, and to them were born twelve children, six sons and six daughters, namely: Eliza J. Elizabeth A. William B., Mary S., Annie R., Martha J., Thomas A., James H., Robert B., W. Isabella, Samuel J. and John E. R. A. P. Mrs. King died April 28, 1857, and for his second wife Mr. King married Mrs. Sarah Swift, *née* Clinkenbeard, by whom he had two children, V. Alice and Edward L. Mr. King was a soldier in the Black Hawk war, the Mexican war, and the war for the union. He was killed in the battle of Shiloh, April 6, 1862.

To Mr. and Mrs. Arnold were born five children, three sons and two daughters. Joseph P. married Gertrude Wiley, of Colfax, Illinois, in which place they make their home. He is bookkeeper for his father. Nellie V. married John D. Cunningham, and they now reside in the city of Bloomington, where he holds the position of deputy county recorder. Noah A., Millie E. and A. Lee are yet at home.

In the course of time Mr. Arnold sold his first land and purchased a quarter-section in the same township. Later he purchased, in partnership with his brother, John W., a half-section of land in Iowa, which, in 1894, he traded to his nephew, John P. Arnold, for real-estate in Colfax.

In 1896 he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Richland county, Illinois, and also forty acres in Jasper county. In 1898 he purchased forty acres in Woodford county, Illinois. He also owns five dwellings and four store buildings in Colfax, together with a livery and boarding stable, and has several pieces of real-estate in Bloomington. For a time he was in partnership with his nephew, J. R. Arnold, in the lumber and coal trade and in the drug business, and also in contracting and building, in each of which lines they were quite successful. In December, 1896, the co-partnership was dissolved, J. R. Arnold taking the drug business, and our subject succeeding to the other lines in which they were engaged.

In his political affiliations Mr. Arnold is thoroughly independent, voting for those he considers best qualified for the office. He is a member of the Christian church of Colfax, of which body his wife is also a member. He is now serving as one of the trustees of the church and has held the office of deacon. Fraternally he is a member of Colfax Lodge, No. 749, A. F. & A. M.; of Camp No. 660, M. W. A., and of the Court of Honor. Nellie V. and Millie E. are members of Medora Chapter, O. E. S., at Colfax, of which Millie E. is worthy matron.

The village of Colfax dates its existence from 1880, and Mr. Arnold has been identified with it since its inception. His son, A. Lee, was the first child born within its corporate limits. It is safe to say that no man has done more for the welfare of the village, and he never loses an opportunity to do that which will advance its best interests. His time and money have been freely invested and the result shows that his efforts have not been in vain, for Colfax presents the ap-



pearance of being one of the most thriving villages in the state, and to George W. Arnold much of the credit is due.

JOHN M. DARNALL, a worthy representative of the farming and stock-raising interests of Mt. Hope township, has spent his entire life in this county, and now resides on section 5, where he owns a valuable and well-appointed farm of two hundred and fifty acres. He has watched the development of this region with the interest which every intelligent man feels in regard to the section of the country where he has spent the best years of his life, and should feel satisfaction in the thought that he has been no unimportant factor in bringing it to its present prosperous condition. He experienced all the trials and difficulties of frontier life, but is now enjoying the reward of his labors and struggles in the possession of a fine homestead, where he is surrounded by all the comforts and many of the luxuries of life.

Mr. Darnall was born in this county, September 30, 1833, and is a son of Nicholas Darnall, who was born in Booneville, Kentucky, in 1808, and came to Illinois in 1828, locating first in Lawndale township, McLean county. There he married Serepta Brooks, also a native of Kentucky, who came to this state in 1829. In 1834 they located on the farm now owned and occupied by our subject, and here the father erected a good story and a half house, in 1842, and made other improvements. He died in 1848 at the age of forty. His wife survived him until 1872, and reared her children to habits of industry and honesty.

Upon his present farm John M. Darnall

grew to manhood, and though his early education was limited, he has become a well informed man by subsequent reading and observation. He remained at home with his mother until thirty years of age, when he removed to the section of the farm where he now lives, his present residence having been built there in 1882. He has purchased the interests of the other heirs in the place, has made many improvements thereon, and has throughout his active business life successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising.

In Bloomington, January 3, 1865, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Darnall and Miss Hannah Zollars, who was born in Waynesville, De Witt county, Illinois, but was principally reared in Mt. Hope township, McLean county. Her father, John Zollars, a native of Pennsylvania, came to this state from Ohio at an early day, and after a short time spent in De Witt county, took up his residence here. Of the six children born to our subject and his wife, three are now deceased, one having died in infancy, and Sarah and George in early childhood. Those living are as follows: Lee, who lives on a part of the home farm and owns and operates a steam thresher, is married and has four children, Alvin Ila, Donald F., Daniel Ross and Orion Harvel. Charles and Clarence Homer assist in the cultivation of the farm.

In early life Mr. Darnall was a Whig in politics, and cast his first presidential vote for Millard Fillmore in 1856, but he supported Abraham Lincoln in 1860, and has since affiliated with the Republican party. He served as constable in his township in 1865, has filled the office of pathmaster, and has been a member of the school board for about twenty-two years. His wife is a con-



sistent and earnest member of the Christian church. Mr. Darnall can relate many interesting incidents of pioneer life, when there were no railroads, telegraphs or telephones in through this section, when the settlers were widely scattered, and the present towns and city were mere hamlets. In 1847, in company with his father, he drove to Chicago with a team of horses, making a long and hard trip of two weeks, while at present, with modern facilities of travel, the journey can be made in a few hours.

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LEVI W. SHOLTEY, one of the most successful and progressive agriculturists of Anchor township, was born in Selma, Indiana, September 7, 1844, and is of German descent. When young, his paternal grandfather stole aboard a ship bound for America, and on reaching this country he was sold to a blacksmith for seven years' labor as pay for his transportation. He soon learned the blacksmith's trade and followed that occupation throughout life.

Jacob Sholtey, father of our subject, was born near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, in 1805, and began his business career in that state by working on a farm by the month. Later he was similarly employed in Ohio for seven years, and then removed to Indiana, purchasing a tract of timber land near Selma, on which he erected a grist-mill and did a good business for some years. Finally selling out in 1849, he came to Bloomington, Illinois, and engaged in farming with good success upon land where the Chicago & Alton railroad shops are now located. Subsequently he purchased one hundred and twenty-five acres west of Shirley, in Dale township, for which he paid about seven dollars per acre. That farm was partially

improved, but the half section which he later bought from the railroad company at twelve dollars and a half per acre was wild prairie. His next purchase consisted of one hundred and sixty acres at fifty dollars per acre, and his last was forty acres of timber land at forty dollars per acre. Upon these tracts he erected good and substantial buildings, placed the land under a high state of cultivation, and transformed them into valuable farms. He was a man of good business ability, and as a farmer and stock raiser met with marked success, being at length able to lay aside all business cares and live retired. On the 1st of June, 1830, he married Miss Mary Kauffman, who was also born near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, June 10, 1810, and was of German descent. They celebrated their golden wedding on the 1st of June, 1880, and the following October Mr. Sholtey died. His wife survived him several years, passing away at the old homestead in Dale township in 1893. In his political views he was a Republican. Of the nine children born to them, three died in infancy, Christopher at the age of nineteen years, and Susan, wife of Adam Hoffman, died in Kansas in 1889. Those living are: Henry C., a retired farmer of Bloomington, who has three married children; Samuel, a successful farmer of the same place, who is married and also has married children; Anna, wife of John Cook, who lives near Brownsville, Tennessee, and some of their children are also married; and Levi W., our subject.

Levi W. Sholtey secured a limited education in the country schools of Dale township, but did not have the advantages of many children of his day, as his services were needed in the operation of the home farm. He remained under the parental

roof until he was married, at the age of twenty-two years, to Miss Hannah J. Geyer, who was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, December 20, 1844, a daughter of Ammazia and Sarah Geyer. She came to this county in 1864, after her parents had been located here for some time. Her father was killed during the siege of Vicksburg, but her mother is living, and now makes her home with some of her children in Nebraska. Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Sholtey, and three died in infancy. Those living are William E., who married Florence Knight, of this county, and now lives in Cheney's Grove township; and Mary E., wife of Otto Taylor, of Anchor township, by whom she has one child, Mabel; Julia B., widow of H. O. Davison, by whom she had one child, Earl; Julia; Oliver; Sadie; and Lawrence Vernon, all at home. The children have been provided with good educational advantages, and the younger ones are now nearly through school. The wife and mother was called to her final rest February 23, 1886, and as the children were small at that time it was rather a difficult task for Mr. Sholtey to attend to their wants and also his business interests, but he has faithfully discharged his duties and has reared a family of which he may be justly proud.

He began married life on a half-section of land belonging to his father, which he operated with good success for two years. On attaining his majority he had about fifty head of young cattle, which he fed for three years and then sold for seventy dollars per head. With the money thus acquired he purchased farm implements and household goods; paid some upon the land which he now owns; and invested the remainder in live stock. He made a contract to buy two

hundred acres of wild prairie land at eight and one-half dollars per acre, in Anchor township, sixteen miles from Fairbury, then the nearest market place. To the improvement and cultivation of this land he has since devoted his energies with most gratifying results. He himself has tiled and broke the land, has planted an orchard and shade trees, and has erected good buildings thereon, making it one of the ideal country places of the locality. He first located upon this farm in 1869, but twelve years later, after the death of his father, he returned to the old homestead to look after his mother's interests, remaining there until she, too, passed away, when he again took up his residence upon his own farm, which is now successfully operated by himself and son. In connection with general farming he has engaged in stock raising, his specialty being hogs, which proved quite profitable until 1898, when he lost his entire herd with cholera. Since returning to his home farm, he has purchased eighty acres in Cheney's Grove township, for which he paid seventy-two dollars and a half per acre, and in 1889 he bought one hundred and sixty acres of partially improved land near Frederick, South Dakota. He is also a stockholder in the McLean County Fair Association. He gives his support to every worthy enterprise for the public good, and is especially active and prominent in church work, as an earnest and consistent member of the United Brethren Church. He has served as Sunday-school superintendent for five years, and is now most satisfactorily filling the office of president of the Anchor township Sunday-school Association for a second year. Some of his children belong to the same church, while his others are members of the Christian church. In politics he is a Republican

and he has served as school director and trustee for many years, and is now serving his second term of road commissioner, a very competent man for the place.

JAMES S. NEVILLE, alderman of the first ward of Bloomington, and one of the leading lawyers of the city, is a member of the well-known firm of Rowell, Neville & Lindley. How many a man would be wise if wisdom could be bought, but it can only be obtained through hard labor and earnest application, and a man who wins prominence in any of the learned professions has secured it through merit. Mr. Neville is a man of broad general information and ripe scholarship, and to this he has added a thorough knowledge of law. Working earnestly for his clients' interests he has advanced his own; but whether it will be beneficial to him or otherwise, no trust reposed in him is ever slighted.

He was born in Mackinaw, Tazewell county, Illinois, March 11, 1856, and is of English and French descent. His paternal great-grandfather was General John Neville, of Virginia, who was a first cousin of General Presley Neville, of General La Fayette's staff. The grandfather, George Neville, was born in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, but when young went to Virginia, and later in life became a resident of Tennessee, where he served as sheriff.

Christopher O. Neville, father of our subject, was born in Clarksville, Tennessee, October 8, 1800, but was reared as a farmer boy in Kentucky and there learned the blacksmith's trade. He was one of the pioneers of Tazewell county, Illinois, where he took up land from the government, and before his simple log house was completed

came the noted deep snow of 1830. In the locality he made his home and engaged in farming and blacksmithing until 1850, when he removed to the village of Mackinaw and started a general store. In 1860 he went to Eureka, where he was engaged in the same business until called from this life October 26, 1869. He was an active supporter of the Republican party and was quite a prominent and influential citizen of his community. He was one of the first postmasters of Mackinaw, a county commissioner of Tazewell county, and held other local offices. He was a faithful member of the Christian church and one of its most active workers, and was one of the founders of the college and church at Eureka. On the 6th of November, 1846, he was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth L. Lindsey, who was born in Christian county, Kentucky, December 5, 1813, and was a daughter of James A. Lindsey, who removed from that state to Mackinaw, Illinois, in 1834. He was a soldier of the war of 1812, and after his death his widow received a pension from the government. Mrs. Neville died December 5, 1877. Only two of her twelve children are now living—our subject and Mrs. C. W. Campbell, of Topeka, Kansas. Mr. Neville was twice married. By the first union three children are now living: Mrs. C. N. Pearre, of Indianapolis, and Mrs. Virginia Neville, of Danville, Kentucky; and John H., professor of languages in the State University, Lexington, Kentucky.

James S. Neville, the youngest in the family of five children, began his education in the common schools of Eureka, but after his father's death, which occurred when he was twelve years old, the family removed to a farm, and he further pursued his studies



in the district schools. At the age of twenty he went west, where he spent three years, and on his return to Illinois located in Bloomington, where he read law with Rowell & Hamilton. In 1880 he was admitted to the bar by examination in the supreme court, but remained in the office of his preceptors until Mr. Hamilton was elected governor and Mr. Rowell a member of congress. Subsequently he was a member of the law firm of Neville & Blade until Mr. Blade went to California, after which the present partnership was formed. With the exception of criminal law, he is engaged in general practice, and has acted as attorney for the street car company for years and also for the telegraph and telephone companies. He is not only a good lawyer, but is a good business man as well; in fact, he possesses unusual ability in that direction. He has been active in the organization of a number of corporations, such as the fair association and manufacturing companies.

On the 11th of August, 1884, Mr. Neville was united in marriage with Miss Nellie Bent, a daughter of Horatio Bent, of Bloomington, and to them has been born a daughter, Edith. They hold membership in the Christian church, with which the family has been connected for many years. Mr. Neville's maternal grandfather, James A. Lindsey, was a prominent minister of that denomination for over twenty years, and helped to establish many of the Christian churches in this part of the state. Since attaining his majority, Mr. Neville has taken an active part in the councils of the Republican party, and during President Harrison's administration he most efficiently and satisfactorily served as postmaster of Bloomington, during which time he helped

to locate the new office. He has also represented the first ward in the city council for three terms, and was one of the leaders who was active in bringing about the change from the old to the new charter on a broader basis. He drew up the petitions and had them circulated, getting the needed names for it. While chairman of the committee on general improvements, he was instrumental in laying more than half the pavements in the city, and in other ways has materially advanced its welfare. In manner he is genial and courteous and is deservedly popular with all classes. As a lawyer he stands high with the profession, and as a citizen has always been found true to every trust reposed in him.

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FRANK J. MITTAN, M. D., is actively engaged in the practice of his profession in the village of Colfax, where he located in 1891. He is a thorough student of his profession and endeavors at times to keep abreast of the times, all especially as pertaining to medicine and surgery. He was born in DeWitt, DeWitt county, Illinois, April 13, 1865, and obtained his literary education in the district and high school of Farmer City. His father, George H. Mittan, was born near Scranton, Pennsylvania, September 12, 1837, and when twelve years old came with his parents to Lee county, Illinois, where, after finishing his schooling in the common schools, he learned the blacksmith trade, and later carried on a shop until he became the owner of a farm, which he operated for a time, but abandoned for a mercantile life. He is now engaged in the furniture trade in Farmer City, Illinois.

George H. Mittan was twice married,



first on December 24, 1862, to Miss Eliza Margaret Erwin, of Farmer City, by which union there were seven children, five sons and two daughters—Clara B., Frank J., Wesley C., Effie J., Ira C., Elmer and Ora C. Clara B. married John S. Brandon, of Belle Flower, Illinois, and they have two daughters, Myrtle and Pearl. They now reside in Marshalltown, Iowa. Effie J. married Frederick D. Rhea, of Belle Flower, Illinois, and they have now three living children. They now reside in Mason City, Illinois, where he is employed as a railroad agent. Mrs. Eliza Mittan died August 31, 1888, and for his second wife, he married on March 3, 1897, Mrs. Fannie Wharton, *née* Knight.

After finishing his education, the subject of this sketch taught school for four years, two in country schools and two in the Belle Flower high school. In the vacations of the summers of 1883, 1884 and 1885, he studied medicine with Dr. Godfrey, of Belle Flower, and in the fall of 1887 he entered Miami Medical College, at Cincinnati, Ohio, and remained there one year. He then taught as principal the Belle Flower high school, and in 1888 entered Rush Medical College, Chicago, from which he was graduated in 1891. Immediately on receiving his diploma, the Doctor located in Colfax and entered on the practice of his profession, and has since met with unqualified success. He is now a member of the McLean County Medical Society, and also of the State Medical Society, in each of which he takes an active part.

On the 24th of November, 1896, Dr. Mittan was united in marriage with Miss Emma L. Butcher, of Belle Flower, Illinois. Her father, James C. Butcher, was born near Crawfordsville, Indiana, October 7,

1829, and was educated in the schools of his native state. He has always followed the honorable occupation of farming. He was twice married, first in 1852, to Miss Jane E. Emmett, of Crawfordsville, and they became the parents of six children, three sons and three daughters, two sons dying in infancy. Those living are Flora E., Emma L., John A. and Ida A. The family came to McLean county in 1850 and located in Old Town township, where Mr. Butcher resumed his farming operations. His wife dying November 3, 1870, for his second wife he married Mrs. Susan Harris, *née* Fordice, the marriage being solemnized October 2, 1871. By this marriage there are three children, Jay S., Myron H. and Josie H. He is now living a retired life. Of the children by his first wife, Flora E. married Lincoln P. Goodheart, and they have one daughter, Ina L. They reside in Chicago. Ida A. married Charles Donohue, of Chicago. The paternal grandfather of Mrs. Mittan, John Butcher, was the oldest member of his family, and was born in 1799. He married Abigail Monohon. Her grandfather, James Butcher, was born in 1777, and he was also the oldest member of the family. He married Mary Patterson. Mrs. Mittan's maternal grandfather, Peter Monohon, married Silence Shobe.

Fraternally Dr. Mittan is a member of Colfax Lodge, No. 799, A. F. & A. M.; of Bloomington Chapter, No. 26, R. A. M.; of Bloomington Council, No. 43, R. & S. M., and of De Molay Commandery, No. 24, K. T., of Bloomington. Since locating in Colfax he has taken an active part in everything pertaining to the welfare of the village. Especially has he shown an interest in educational matters, his experience as a teacher enabling him to know what is for the best

interests of the schools. At present he is serving as chairman of the board of education. He has been a member of the board of aldermen, and was president of the board for one year. He is at present chairman of the board of health of the village. In politics he is a staunch Republican. His ancestry are French, Scotch, German and English.

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**I**RA MERCHANT, a leading and representative citizen of Bloomington, has been one of the most important factors in her upbuilding and development, and his devotion to the public welfare has made him a valued resident. He is widely known and his worth and ability have gained him success, honor and public confidence.

Mr. Merchant was born February 13, 1837, on the family homestead, a farm of two hundred and twenty acres, in Randolph township, Morris county, New Jersey, near Morristown, and is the fourth in order of birth in a family of seven children, whose parents were Daniel Platt and Eliza (Carey) Merchant. His early years were passed at home, assisting in all the work pertaining to farming, and his education was received in the district school and in select private schools in Newark. He left home for the west in November, 1854, and accepted a position as rodman in a survey then being made through Missouri for the North Missouri Railroad, now a part of the Wabash system. After the surveys were completed he worked on the construction in Audrain and Boone counties until, for lack of funds, the work ceased in 1856. He was next with his uncle, Ahaz Merchant, city engineer of Cleveland, Ohio, and his cousin, Aaron Merchant, county surveyor of Cuyahoga

county, Ohio, and by assisting in both city and county work for several months he gained some valuable information in land surveys and municipal work.

Later the engineer for whom Mr. Merchant worked on the North Missouri Railroad—James P. Low, a West Point graduate—offered him a position with an engineering corps in Iowa, with headquarters at Wapello, Louisa county. Financial stringency stopped work on this road in December, 1856, but Mr. Low secured a position for himself and engineering party on a survey that commenced at White Hall, Greene county, Illinois, and was completed through the counties of Greene, Scott, Morgan, Cass, Schuyler, McDonough, Warren, Mercer, Henry and Rock Island. In April, 1857, at the age of twenty years, he was appointed assistant engineer by Mr. Low and placed in charge of construction from White Hall to Beardstown, a distance of fifty miles. Subsequently two divisions were formed, and he took charge of that portion of the line from the northern boundary of Scott county to Beardstown. In the summer of 1858 he was ordered by the chief engineer, Mr. Low, to make preliminary surveys from White Hall south, to the Chicago & Alton Railroad, at Brighton, and was placed in charge of the construction of this division after completing the location.

On the 14th of February, 1860, Mr. Merchant married Miss Mary, daughter of Francis and Louisa Arenz, of Cass county, Illinois. Her father was a prominent man, interested in the politics of that time, and was a friend of Lincoln, Yates, Baker, McClelland, Palmer and other noted leaders in political life. Mr. and Mrs. Merchant have one child, Ella, now the wife of



IRA MERCHANT.

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Charles H. McWhorter, a merchant of Denver, Colorado, by whom she has two children, Ira and Irene. Our subject and his wife also have an adopted son, a nephew of Mrs. Merchant, Walter Francis Arenz, whose mother died when he was only one month old. He is now fifteen years of age.

The hard times and great business depression preceding the war of the Rebellion closed the work of construction on the Rock Island & Alton, now the St. Louis division of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad. Mr. Merchant was then engaged for several months in making final estimates of all contractors' work from Brighton north to Macomb, McDonough county, and was the last civil engineer to work on the line previous to the breaking out of the war.

In August, 1861, he enlisted in a company raised at Winchester, Scott county, and was elected orderly sergeant of that company, which became Company C, Twenty-eighth Illinois Infantry. After a short time spent at Camp Butler, they were ordered to St. Louis to be armed, and then proceeded to Bird's Point, Missouri, under command of Lieutenant Colonel Waters, no colonel having been assigned. In the fall of 1861 Lieutenant Colonel Amory K. Johnson, of the Fourteenth Illinois Infantry, was appointed colonel and joined the command at Fort Holt, Kentucky, opposite Cairo. Mr. Merchant was commissioned by Governor Richard Yates as second lieutenant of his company on the 27th of December, 1861, to take rank from November 20. On the 19th of November, 1862, he was commissioned first lieutenant by the same governor, on recommendation of Colonel Johnson, and on the commission was endorsed "promoted for meritorious services

at Fort Donelson and Pittsburg Landing." After the latter battle he was detailed for signal duty and was with the camp of instruction at Paducah, Kentucky, until June, 1862, when he rejoined his regiment at Grand Junction, Tennessee.

On the 4th of July, 1862, while in charge of advanced picket at Holly Springs, Mississippi, Mr. Merchant was wounded in the left arm. At the time the injury was considered light, but erysipelas setting in he was in danger of losing his arm. When the line of the Memphis & Charleston Railroad was abandoned in the summer of 1862 and the troops were ordered to Memphis, the wounded, sick and convalescent were sent north to Cairo to be assigned to hospitals, but on account of the danger of infection to other wounded, Mr. Merchant was prevented from entering any hospital. In September he rejoined his command, and while not physically able to attend to all the duties, he took command of the company and marched to Bolivar, Tennessee, and from there to Hatchie river, where he was with his company in the heat of the engagement, October 6, 1862, although carrying his arm in a sling. After the battle was over, in taking a short cut through the timber to visit the field hospital, he came upon a party of Confederates in hiding who, supposing they were surrounded, were anxious to surrender if guaranteed they would not be fired at. They were placed in line and marched to the heights near the battle ground and turned over to the provost marshal. Major General Stephen A. Hurlburt personally complimented Lieutenant Merchant for his action and services in this engagement. Soon after this Colonel Johnson was appointed colonel commanding the Third Brigade, Fourth Division, Sixteenth Army

Corps, composed of the Twenty-eighth, Thirty-second and Forty-first Illinois and the Fifty-third Indiana regiments and appointed Lieutenant Merchant brigade quartermaster. He was in the saddle constantly in Grant's movement south through Mississippi to Water Valley, where the command was compelled to retreat by reason of the capture of Holly Springs by General Van Doren. During the winter of 1862-3 the army occupied the line of the Memphis & Charleston Railroad and Lieutenant Merchant was with the brigade at Collierville and acted as post quartermaster, railroad agent and express agent. Still suffering from his arm and receiving from Dr. West, his regimental surgeon, the advice to resign or be liable to lose his arm and perhaps his life, he forwarded his resignation to General Grant in March, 1863, and it was accepted in April.

Returning to Illinois, Mr. Merchant went to Newark, New Jersey, to secure the service of Dr. Sweet, a noted surgeon, who, after treating him several months and relieving somewhat the rigidity of the muscles and soreness of the arm, told him he might take up his work, as no further improvement could be made. On again coming to Illinois he was elected surveyor of Sangamon county largely through the influence of Governor Yates. After serving the term for which he was elected, he engaged to relocate government surveys on the Sullivant tract in Ford county, some forty thousand acres in a body. After completing this survey he took charge of the field party and completed the preliminary surveys and estimates for the construction of the Peoria & Rock Island Railroad.

In the winter of 1868 Mr. Merchant located in Bloomington and opened an office

for surveying and civil engineering, and while making a start in local work was employed by Larrimore & Davis to assist in making abstracts of titles. His wife had been appointed the first superintendent of the Soldiers' Orphans' Home, and in August, 1867, under the direction of the trustees, John M. Snyder, Dr. Allin and Jesse A. Willson, she opened a temporary home in the residence No. 1207 North Main street. She most faithfully and efficiently discharged her arduous duties in the care of over fifty children with insufficient accommodations, and was offered the position of superintendent of the permanent home in June, 1869, by the unanimous vote of the trustees, but was obliged to decline on account of the ill health of her daughter.

Mr. Merchant was first appointed city engineer of Bloomington, in 1869, largely through the influence of Thomas J. Bunn, then alderman from the second ward, who from that time on has always been a warm friend of our subject. The office was filled by Mr. Merchant continuously until August, 1880, when he resigned on account of a disagreement with the mayor, but was re-appointed in 1882, and served that year and the following under Mayor John W. Trotter. Since then he has not been connected with municipal engineering. In the spring of 1869 Bloomington was a mud town, there being several weeks during which no loads could be hauled from the Chicago & Alton and Illinois Central railroads. The engineering work that year consisted in paving the streets from each depot to the public square, the Illinois Central bringing stone from La Salle and the Chicago & Alton from Joliet for paving Grove street and two blocks on Main from the Illinois Central depot, and Chestnut street from the railroad to

Center and south on Center to the square. Previous to this time they were no pavements, no sewers, no brick sidewalks and no water supply. During Mayor Bunn's administration, in 1870, Nicholson pavement was laid on the north and west sides of the public square, and the history of the pavements from 1870 to 1877, when the first solid block of brick pavement was laid on the west side of the square, was a succession of trials and failures with everything that could be laid that would not take the property to pay for it. The first block of brick pavement laid in the United States was on the west side of the square in Bloomington, but to-day it is safe to say that more square yards of this pavement are laid in cities from five to one hundred thousand population than all others combined.

The building of sewers was commenced under Mayor Funk's terms from 1871 to 1875, and the water-works under the same mayor. Mr. Merchant superintended the construction of the water-works, preparing all descriptions for ordinances and making all plats of property and lists of persons specially assessed. The stand-pipe which gives Bloomington the best of equalized pressure for distribution of water through the mains was constructed under his immediate supervision from plans drawn by James P. Berkenline, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and he also originated the system of records in the engineer's office. From May, 1884, until March, 1888, he was engaged in contracting and in engineering for tile drainage of farms. He was then employed by the executors of the estate of the late David Davis as business manager, under their direction taking charge of the improvements on farm lands and keeping books and accounts of the estate until the death of

Henry S. Swayne, one of the executors, in 1893, since which time he has acted as business agent for Mrs. Sarah (Davis) Swayne, one of the two heirs of David Davis.

In his political relations Mr. Merchant is independent, voting for the man rather than the party. He has always taken an active interest in the welfare of Bloomington, and his abilities have been exerted in her behalf, so that she now ranks among the best and most attractive cities composing this great commonwealth. He is an excellent business man—one who has a peculiar faculty for organizing and systematizing all his business affairs, and he is a genial, affable gentleman who makes many friends. His wife has been a member of the Second Presbyterian church of Bloomington for over thirty years, and is a most estimable lady.

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WILLIAM WELCH, whose residence is on section 30, Funk's Grove township, and whose farm lies within three miles of the village of McLean, has been a resident of McLean county since September 30, 1857. He was born in Worcestershire, England, in June, 1826, and was there reared on a farm and received a limited common-school education. For five years he engaged in gardening in his native land and was a practical gardener. Realizing that in his native land the opportunities were very few for one to make his way to independence, he determined to come to America, where the poor man had a chance to make more than a bare living. Accordingly, in the spring of 1857, he sailed from Liverpool in the ship *Fidelia*, a sailing vessel, and was thirty-two days on the voyage, during which



time they encountered some severe weather and met with what might have proved a more serious accident. Some days before being due in New York they ran into a coal vessel, the ship being considerably damaged. In their crippled condition they arrived in New York, thankful in making a safe arrival. From New York he went direct to Woodstock, Oxford county, Canada, where he worked at odd jobs until in September following, when he came to McLean county, arriving on the date mentioned. Here he found employment as a farm hand, and for two years worked by the month.

Mr. Welch was married in Bloomington, Illinois, October 1, 1859, to Miss Catherine Snedeker, a native of West Virginia and daughter of George Snedeker, who lived and died in Brooke county, West Virginia. She came to McLean county a young lady, with the family of her brother George. By this union four children were born. William, Jr., is single and yet remains at home. Charles married Helen A. Wood, a native of McLean county, and daughter of Captain Harry Wood, now deceased. They have one daughter, Lena. They make their home with his parents, and he assists in carrying on the farm. Jane yet remains under the parental roof. Eva is the wife of William Brock, and they reside in the village of McLean.

Soon after his marriage Mr. Welch bought a small tract of land in Randolph township, and, renting some other tracts there, lived and engaged in farming until 1867, when he sold out and bought twenty-five acres of his present farm. It was an old place, much run down, and on it was an old log house, which was built in 1829, and in that he moved with his family and commenced to make all necessary improve-

ments. In due time the old house was replaced with a more modern building, barns were built, an orchard set out, and the place soon presented a far different appearance. He now owns sixty acres of good land, but rents and cultivates a total of about two hundred acres, giving his attention to mixed farming and stock-raising.

Mr. Welch came to this country with the intention of becoming an American citizen, and to that end took out his naturalization papers, and cast his first presidential vote in 1864 for Abraham Lincoln. He has since voted the Republican ticket, but has never sought or accepted an office. His sons take an active part in local politics, and, like their father, support the Republican ticket. William has served as township collector, and is now a member of the school board, while Charles is serving as school treasurer. The family are all held in high esteem in the community in which they have so long lived. The forty-two years in which our subject has lived here, have been years of honest toil, and while his riches may not have increased as rapidly as that of others, all that he has is the result of his own labors, assisted by his good wife and the family.

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**D**R. HERMANN SCHROEDER. There are always a few men in every community who are recognized leaders in the growth of the localities with which they are connected, who are the promoters of its enterprises, the founders of its industries and the advocates of all the varied interests which will contribute to the prosperity and well being of their fellow-townsmen. Of this class Dr. Schroeder is a representative. He has been one of the most potent factors



in the upbuilding of Bloomington, where for almost half a century he has made his home, watching the development of the little village into one of the thriving commercial centers of the state, and bearing an important part in its progress. His history is in many respects an eventful one, but now in the evening of life he is crowned with that veneration and respect which should ever follow a career of activity and usefulness. Broad-minded, he has ever favored liberty, progress and the right. With him success in life has been reached by his sterling qualities of mind and a heart true to every manly principle; he has never deviated from what his judgment would indicate to be right and honorable between his fellowmen and himself; he has never swerved from the path of duty, and now after a long and eventful career he can look back over the past with pride, and enjoy the remaining years of his earthly pilgrimage with a consciousness of having gained for himself, by his honorable, straightforward career, the confidence and respect of the entire community in which he lives.

Dr. Schroeder was born in the town of Althaldensleben, near the city of Magdeburg, in Prussia, May 22, 1821. His father was one of Napoleon's old soldiers who gave the signal to retreat from Moscow. On his deportation to Siberia he escaped from Russian slavery, and found after a long wandering a home and a wife in the village of Althaldensleben. There the Doctor was born in a year of great famine, and taken in a basket to the Kloyster fields by his mother who worked therein. He was given the best educational advantages afforded in the schools of the town, and his parents, who were Catholics, destined him for the priesthood. Aristocratic people and even the

bishop became interested in him, for he was an excellent scholar, and furnished him the means of study, but after his mother's death he abandoned the idea of entering the priesthood and commenced the study of natural philosophy and medicine, but while thus engaged his benefactor, Herr Nathusius, died and he commenced the study and work of an architect, as it would sooner bring him financial returns, and he must depend upon his own exertions for a livelihood. He met with excellent success in the new undertaking and soon became the contractor of government buildings. He prospered financially, but his love of republican principles led him to discuss the same from the public platform and through the press, and in the great historical year, 1848, he was to be found upon the barricade and among the revolutionary speakers. Soon, however, a contra-revolution took place and Doctor Schroeder, together with many other revolutionists, was persecuted and would have been shot, had he not made his escape at night and fled to America, "the land of the free and home of the brave." In order to effect his escape he was obliged to kill a soldier who was pursuing him, and taking his gun, the Doctor brought it with him to America, it being the first needle gun in this country. A new chapter in the book of life was thus begun, and from that time his interests were to be allied with those of the new world.

In 1846 Dr. Schroeder had married Princ von Buchau, the youngest daughter of Baronet Prince von Buchau, who was the general-adjutant of the great General Blucher, at Waterloo, and last commander of Casse, one of the thirteen adorned by the king of Prussia, knight of the order Pour le Merite, the highest military order in Germany. She traced her ancestry clear back to

Johannes, Prince von Buchau, who flourished in 1642 and who was the first Swedish governor in America, being sent hither with fifty-four German families. He built the first Protestant church in the United States, at Princedorph, New Jersey. Later he returned to Stockholm, where he occupied a position in harmony with his rank, and for many generations his descendants were equally honored.

Hidden in one of the rotten, wooden ships Dr. Schroeder made his way to New York. He could not find employment there and so went as an emigrant to Cleveland, Ohio, where he gained some kind friends and again took up the study of medicine, becoming, after two years of preparation, a physician of considerable note. He practiced in Mansfield and in Mount Gilead, Ohio, for a time and then by wagon started westward, reaching the little town of Bloomington, Illinois, in 1851. Upon the prairie, near the present site of the Illinois Central depot, he constructed a shanty out of the first log house ever built in the town, and began the practice of medicine, eventually directed his energies into other channels. He dealt quite extensively in real estate for a time, first purchasing nine town lots on which he erected thirteen houses from lumber he had made from the timber on a forty-acre tract of land that he had purchased. Rents were high then and accordingly the investment was a profitable one. He soon accumulated money to buy from the Illinois Central railroad two hundred and forty acres, now the south side of Elpaso, and eighty acres on which the city of Gilman has been built. He named the place Schroeder-ville, laid it out in town lots, and in 1856 sold it. He then commenced grape culture, probably establishing the first vineyards in

the west. He was particularly successful in the propagation of grape vines, sold many million plants all over this country and even shipped to France and Germany. He continued in that line until a short time ago, and is even now engaged in horticultural pursuits upon his valuable land, comprising one hundred acres which adjoins the city.

In 1866 he erected the Grand Opera House, the first in the city, having two stores in the first story, and the theater in the second, third and fourth. For many years entertainments of various kinds attracted the people, but recently it has been torn down to make room for more modern buildings. In 1869 he aided in building Minerva Block,—for some years the finest in the city—and still owns the store at No. 316, in that block. Coal had been found along the creek and in the hillsides, but the Doctor thought it must surely underlie the prairies also. Accordingly he secured scientific experts to make examinations, and, as he anticipated, coal was found. He became the owner of nearly one-fifth of the stock of the Bloomington Coal Mine Company, and was twice its president, but sold out in order to devote his time to the nursery business. He also established a vinegar and cider factory, and developed a large and profitable business, but eventually disposed of the plant.

In 1875 Dr. Schroeder went abroad with his family and traveled all over Europe, where he first partook of the noted summer sausage, which sold for seventy-five cents per pound. After his return he began the manufacture of sausage, in 1878 erecting his steam sausage and meat pressing factory, South Main street, Bloomington. It was his intention to export this sausage, and his first shipment went to Europe. He sent his

son-in-law to Europe to make arrangements for the disposal, but the first large shipment was found to contain trichina, and nearly all had to be destroyed. This occasioned great commotion among the importers of Germany, and was taken up by the government. The Doctor was visited by the ambassador of this country, and it was threatened to shut off all meat importation from America. Dr. Schroeder wrote many articles to defend American pork, got into a number of very heated discussions, and when it was forbidden to receive American pork in the Fatherland, he retired from the business.

Unto the Doctor and his wife were born three children. America, the eldest, married Noel Abbott, but is now a widow and has seven sons. Minerva became the wife of Dr. Alfred Schirmer, of Chicago, and died leaving three daughters and a son. Franklin is married and has two sons and a daughter. The family has long been one of prominence in the community, and the circle of their friends is almost co-extensive with the circle of their acquaintances. The Doctor has also been prominent in the promotion of many social interests of Bloomington, and was the organizer of the first Mænnerchor. He is a man of excellent business ability, of scholarly attainments, of artistic tastes, of genial temperament and social disposition, which qualities have made him a favorite in all circles.

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MILTON A. GREEN, who is engaged in the drug business in the village of Colfax, and who was one of the first to locate there, and who is now the oldest merchant in the place, was born in the village of Kent, Jefferson county, Indiana, Decem-

ber 6, 1843, and was fourteen years old when he accompanied his parents to Lexington, McLean county, Illinois. His primary education was begun in the schools of his native village, and after the removal of the family to Lexington, he entered the schools of that place. Later he attended Eureka College one year, which completed his school life. Arthur Green, his father, was born in Jennings county, Indiana, October, 1818, and in the pioneer schools of his native county he received his education. In his youth he learned the cabinet maker's trade, which he followed for some years in connection with the mercantile business. In 1839 he moved to Jefferson county, Indiana, and on the 24th of October, of that year, he was united in marriage with Miss Mary Wheat, who was born in Jefferson county, Indiana, December 14, 1818, and they became the parents of four sons and four daughters—James B., Abraham W., Milton A., Susan J., Zachary T., Zella C., Ida E., and Namoi. Of these, James B. in early life followed the profession of teaching. He enlisted in 1862 as a soldier in the Ninety-eighth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and on account of physical disability, was honorably discharged early in 1863, but died in March of the same year. Dr. Abraham W. was also numbered among those that wore the blue, serving in Company F, One Hundred and Thirty-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was honorably discharged at the expiration of his term of service. He later engaged in the practice of medicine in McLean county, and was also engaged in the general mercantile trade here until 1887, when he removed to the state of Washington. He was also an acceptable minister in the Christian church, and yet preaches in his new home, and at



the same time engages in the practice of medicine. He was twice married, first to Sophia Luce, and they had two children, Arthur L. and Allene. His wife was killed in Bloomington in 1878, by being thrown from a carriage. For his second wife, in 1880, he married Jennie L. Lindley, of Indianapolis. Susan J. died in infancy. Zachary T. is a general grocer in Flora, Clay county, Illinois. He married Elizabeth Rosenberger, and they have three children, S. Otis, Maude S. and Carl. Ida E. married Solomon Miller and they have two children, Roy and Mary M. Mr. Miller was also a soldier in the civil war. Naomi died at the age of six years. Arthur Green died in 1887, and his widow May 15, 1890.

After leaving Eureka College, Milton A. Green read medicine, and in 1869-70, attended Rush Medical College, after which he went to Louisville, Illinois, where he engaged in the practice of his profession. He remained there about five years, but on account of continued ill health, he abandoned the profession, and in April, 1875, went to Potosi, Illinois, where he took charge of his brother Abram's general store, and there continued to do business until 1880, when the store was removed to Colfax, and the business continued there. In November, 1898, he purchased the drug department of the store and the remainder of the stock was shipped to his brother in Medical Lake, Washington. Both he and his wife are registered pharmacists.

On the 8th of August, 1872, Dr. Green was united in marriage with Miss Theresa V. Hart, a native of Wayne county, Illinois, but then living in Clay county. By this union three children were born, two of whom, Harry V. and Daisy M., died in infancy. Clara M., who was born in August,

1878, is a graduate of the Colfax high school, and also a graduate of the Northwestern University School of Pharmacy, of Chicago, in the class of 1899. The father of Mrs. Green, Daniel M. Hart, was born in Virginia about 1812, and moved from that state with his parents to Ohio, when a boy, the family locating in Carroll county. After obtaining his education in the district schools, he read medicine and began its practice. From Ohio he moved to Wayne county, Illinois, where for forty years he was engaged in active practice. He was well known throughout Wayne and adjoining counties, and often went on horseback fifteen miles from one patient to another. In 1839 he married Sarah Marshall, a native of Carroll county, Ohio, born in 1814. They became the parents of six children—Ephriam J., Ruth, Cicero D., Theresa V., Amanda E., and Sara F. Two of the number, Ruth and Sarah F., died in infancy. Ephriam J. married Sarah Rosenberger, and they had eight children, Metta P., Virgie V., Everest H., Claude Y., Edna W., Fay, Lorena and Zula, of whom Claude Y. and Zula are deceased. Ephriam J. was a soldier in the war for the Union, serving in the Fortieth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, from which he was honorably discharged after three years of faithful service. Mrs. Sarah Hart died in 1852, while Dr. Hart survived her many years, dying in January, 1876.

As already intimated, Dr. Green has been identified with the history of Colfax from the beginning. He let the contract for his residence, corner of Center and North streets, March 1, 1880, and his wife came with their household goods on the 3d of May, following. There were only six families in the village at that time. He has



always taken a commendable interest in whatever tended to promote the interests of the village, and has served one term of two years as one of the aldermen of the village, and for about two years was village treasurer. In politics, he is a Prohibitionist on local issues, but on national issues, especially as pertains to the finances, he is a Republican. Fraternally, he is a member of Eudora Lodge, No. 187, K. P., of Colfax, and Mrs. Green is a member of the Pythian Sisterhood. They are charter members of the Pythian orders. Both have passed through all the chairs of their respective lodges. She also became a member of the Eastern Star in 1899. Religiously, both are zealous members of the Christian church. While residing in Louisville the Doctor served as deacon of the church at that place, and since taking up his residence in Colfax he has served the church in the office of elder.

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EDGAR S. CORPE, an energetic, progressive and successful farmer of section 16, Lawndale township, McLean county, is of English descent and a native of Indiana, his birth having occurred in Middlebury, Elkhart county, November 29, 1840. He is the son of Benjamin F. and Mary (Hurlburt) Corpe. The former was born July 24, 1803, and died October 12, 1854. The latter was born February 6, 1805, and died May 19, 1898. They were the parents of twelve children, nine of whom are still living. Our subject was seventh in order of birth.

In his native county our subject grew to manhood, and in its public schools received his education. He was one of the valiant defenders of the stars and stripes during the war

of Rebellion. Hardly had the echoes of Fort Sumter's guns died away, when he offered his services to his country, enlisting April 17, 1861, in Company I, Ninth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, for three months, and on the expiration of that time he was honorably discharged. On the 7th of August, 1862, however, he re-enlisted in Company I, Eighty-eight Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and with that command participated in the battles of Perryville, Kentucky; Murfreesboro, Tennessee; and Little Rock, Arkansas. During the last named engagement he was wounded in the right leg and knee and was sent to hospital at Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, where he arrived October 1, 1863. He remained in the hospital until November 15, and then returned to his home in Middlebury, Indiana, on a furlough, and was there about three weeks. He then went to Chattanooga, Tennessee, and continued with the army to Marietta, Georgia. On the 20th of August, 1864, he was taken prisoner, but was soon afterwards paroled. In November, 1864, he received a furlough and again visited his home.

Mr. Corpe had two brothers, Theron F. and Austin S., in the same company and regiment with himself. They served their country faithfully and well for three years. His youngest brother, Emerson J., enlisted in the One Hundredth Indiana Volunteer Infantry at fourteen years of age, and was in thirty-eight general engagements and numerous skirmishes. He returned home at the close of the service without having received a wound of any kind. The four brothers are yet all living.

Soon after the close of the war Mr. Corpe located in Woodford county, Illinois, where he was married on the 14th of April, 1867, to Miss Mary A. Nesmith, a native of

Medina county, Ohio, who came to Illinois in childhood with her parents, who located in Woodford county. She is of Scotch descent and traces her ancestry back to her great-grandfather, James Nesmith, who emigrated to America in 1719 from Londonderry, Ireland. By this union five children have been born. C. Franklin married Miss Mabel B. Hester, of Cheno, Illinois, daughter of J. Hester, who is a farmer and fruit grower, residing on the home farm. Nina died in infancy. Charles Perry died January 8, 1899, at the age of twenty-six years. He was a young man of ability, excellent education and irreproachable character. Harry W. resides with his parents, and with his brother operates the home farm. Jennie D. married Rev. Harvey G. Wagoner, of Eureka, Illinois, and they have one child, Mary D.

In 1880 Mr. Corpe took up his residence on his present fine farm in Lawndale township, and has since successfully engaged in its operation. He and his sons are members of Colfax Lodge, No. 799, F. and A. M., and the ladies of the household belong to the Order of the Eastern Star. The family is one of prominence in the community, and they have a wide circle of friends and acquaintances who are always sure of a hearty welcome at their hospitable home.

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**J**OHAN L. PICKERING, who is living a retired life on his farm on section 4, Blue Mound township, but for many years was actively engaged in farming and stock raising, was born near Zanesville, Belmont county, Ohio, August 25, 1831. His father, John L. Pickering, was born in Virginia, March 30, 1791, and when about eighteen years of age accompanied his parents to

Ohio, the family locating in Belmont county, where the older Pickering purchased land and engaged in general farming.

When John L. Pickering, Sr., became of age he purchased a tract of land and began life for himself. He built a small mill on his place, which he operated in connection with his farm, doing milling for many of his neighbors for miles around. In the early day milling was quite a profitable business. On the 12th of October, 1812, he married Miss Johanna Blackledge, who was born in Pennsylvania January 1, 1792, and who, in childhood, moved with her parents to Belmont county, Ohio, her father engaging in agricultural pursuits. By this union there were eight children who reached maturity, and one that died in infancy. Of the number four are still living. In 1836 the family came to Illinois and settled in Grundy county, where the father purchased eighty acres of land and began its improvement. He later added eighty acres more and successfully carried on his farm and engaged to some extent in stock raising.

The subject of this sketch was four and a half years old when he came with his parents to Grundy county, Illinois. He received his education in an old log schoolhouse in that county, which was furnished with rude benches and like primitive furniture, well remembered by the pioneers. He lived at home until twenty-four years old, assisting his father with the farm work. He then rented a farm and commenced farming for himself, together with stock raising. For twelve years he continued to rent, during which time he was enabled to save enough to purchase a farm of eighty acres of partly improved land, for which he paid forty dollars per acre. This land com-

prised a part of his present farm, he having come to this county in February, 1862. To his original eighty acres he later added one hundred and ten acres, giving a good farm of one hundred and ninety acres.

On the 9th of August, 1855, Mr. Pickering was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth M. Eaton, who was born September 9, 1840, in Ohio, near the old home of Mr. Pickering, and who came with her parents, George and Anna Eaton, to Illinois, in 1854. Her father was a native of Ohio, while her mother was a native of Virginia. They located in Grundy county, this state, where the father purchased a farm and engaged in agricultural pursuits. To Mr. and Mrs. Pickering nine children were born, six of whom are now living, and all very successful farmers in the vicinity of their old home. Oscar is married and has one child, Darwin. He is engaged in farming in Blue Mound township. Thomas B. is married and has one child, Claris. He is also a farmer of Lexington township. George Lincoln is married and is the father of three children, Emma Belle, Romulus and Remus, twins. He is engaged in farming in Blue Mound township. William C. is married, and has two children, Ethel and Esther. He is also farming in Blue Mound township. D. Clarence is married and is the father of one child, Pansy M. J. He is at present living in Cooksville. John A. is married and is the father of one child, Manila Grace. He is now farming on a part of the home place.

Mr. Pickering and each of his sons are strong Republicans, and though they are not office seekers, they always work for the interest of their party. Mr. Pickering has held the office of road commissioner and school trustee, holding the latter office for

twelve years. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he is serving as class leader and steward, and in which he has served as trustee. He has never aspired to public prominence, and has always given his special attention to home interests and the improvement of his farm. He was a member of the Patrons of Husbandry for a time, the only secret society with which he was ever identified. For thirty-seven years he has been a resident of McLean county, and after many years of honest toil he feels that he has a right to take life easy, and to that end has built a small house on one corner of his farm, in which he and his good wife will probably spend the remainder of their days.

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WILLIAM H. WRIGHT, a wide-awake and energetic business man and successful farmer residing on section 18, Mt. Hope township, is a native of Addison county, Vermont, born in the shadows of the Green mountains, February 13, 1851, and is a worthy representative of one of the hardy pioneer families of that state. There the birth of his grandfather, Moses Wright, occurred, and his father, William F. Wright, was born in Vermont in 1817. On attaining to man's estate the latter was there married to Miss Electa Whitwood, a native of Massachusetts. They continued their residence upon a farm in the Green Mountain state until 1856, when they came to McLean county, Illinois, and made a permanent location in Mt. Hope township, where the father owned two different farms. The first, consisting of eighty acres, he sold and bought an improved place of the same size, upon which he spent his last days, dying there in



1886, his wife in 1884. They were laid to rest in Mt. Hope cemetery, where a substantial monument has been erected to their memory. Our subject is the third in order of birth in their family of five children, the others being Kate E., who died at the age of twenty years; Mrs. Catherine E. Ewing, a widow, of Mt. Hope township; C. B., who is engaged in farming upon a place adjoining that of our subject; and Mary E., wife of Elmer Cotton, a farmer of Mt. Hope township.

William H. Wright was about six years old when brought by his parents to this county, where he has since made his home. During his boyhood he attended the public schools, but is mostly self-educated since reaching years of maturity. He assisted his father on the home farm until thirty years of age, during which time he also taught school in McLean county for two years.

In Mt. Hope township, February 3, 1881, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Wright and Miss Elizabeth Gardner, a native of Tazewell county, Illinois, and a daughter of Daniel Gardner, who now makes his home in McLean county. The children born of this union are Charles H., Mabel A., Ulysses Wayne, Nellie E., Electa A., Althea Grace and William W.

For a year or two after his marriage, Mr. Wright operated his father's farm and then purchased his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 18, Mt. Hope township, and to its further improvement and cultivation he has since devoted his energies with marked success. He has built a comfortable and commodious residence—one of the best in the neighborhood—and in other ways has added greatly to the beauty and value of his place. He also owns another farm of eighty acres in

Mt. Hope township, and at different times has bought and sold other tracts of land.

Since casting his first presidential vote for General U. S. Grant in 1872, Mr. Wright has been a staunch supporter of the men and measures of the Republican party, but cares nothing for political preferment. In 1894 he was elected commissioner of highways and is now serving his fifth year in that office. As a friend of education and our public school system, he has used his influence for good schools and competent teachers while serving on the school board and as clerk of the district for some years. Socially he is a member of McLean Camp of Modern Woodmen, and religiously his wife is connected with the Methodist Episcopal church. Although he is not a member of any religious organization, he attends church with his wife and gives of his means to its support. Both are highly respected by all who know them and have a large circle of friends and acquaintances in the community where they have so long made their home and are so well known.

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**HENRY F. GIESE.** Back to the fatherland does Henry Giese trace his lineage, and that in his character abide those sterling qualities which ever mark the true type of the German nation, is manifest when we come to consider the more salient points in his life history, which has been one marked by consecutive industry, invincible spirit, sturdy loyalty and unwavering honor,—all of which have resulted most naturally in securing him a position in the respect and esteem of his fellow-men. Coming to this country with no capital save determination to make the best of his opportunities and win success if possible, he has steadily over-



thrown all obstacles and advanced to a prominent place among the substantial citizens of Bloomington.

Born in the village of Schwerin, Mecklenburg, Germany, on the 1st of November, 1845, Henry Giese is a son of Henry and Mary (Schlichting) Giese. The father died in Schwerin, but the mother after came to America and spent her last days with her son Henry. In the common schools of his native village, Henry Giese acquired his education, and then began learning the cabinet-maker's trade, at which he served a four years' apprenticeship, working for his board and four pfennigs, amounting to ten and fifteen cents, which was the entire amount he received from his employer. His most thorough and practical training, however, was received in the trades school, where he studied arithmetic, drawing and architecture. This school was free for apprentices only, who were taught to make the drawings for their own particular work,—a most practical and valuable training. After leaving school he worked at his trade for six months in Germany and then came to the United States, hoping to better his financial condition in the new world.

It was in October, 1867, that Mr. Giese crossed the Atlantic. He made his first location in Alpena, Michigan, then a new town, in which he secured a position in a sawmill. He devoted himself closely to learning our language, and in eight months had the language well mastered. He then engaged in carpentering and building, and on the 4th of July, 1868, started on a lumber vessel for Chicago. On the boat he got the first cup of coffee which he had tasted since leaving Germany, and it was indeed very much enjoyed. He worked in Chicago until November, 1868, when he came

to McLean county and first found employment on a farm at Shirley. There the following winter was passed in cabinet-making and in the spring he began working at the carpenter's trade for Herman Moratz, erecting a number of residences, and for a time was employed in the coach department of the Chicago & Alton Railroad shops. He assisted in the erection of the court house, in the building of the home of Judge Davis, and for fifteen months was employed on the construction of the First Methodist Episcopal church. He has also worked on most of the prominent buildings erected by Henry Miner. Thus his time was passed until 1881, when he retired from the building industry and purchased a grocery store at No. 1318 West Market street. He soon built up a large and profitable business, until his trade is now the largest on the west side. He carries an extensive and well-selected stock of staple and fancy groceries, and his moderate prices and fair dealing have brought to him a well-merited success. He also handles country produce, flour and feed, and numbers among his patrons many of the best families of the west side. His first realty holdings were his store and home, but he has since added to his property interests, making judicious investments in real estate, owning nine different residences in Bloomington. He has also owned a number of farms, and now has one hundred and twenty acres of rich and valuable land from which he derives a good income. He was also a shareholder in a coal company, but their enterprise did not prove a paying one.

Mr. Giese was united in marriage December 3, 1871, to Miss Louisa Hoffman, and to them were born nine children, but six are now deceased. Those living are Her-

man M., who works for his father; Harry W., who is learning the drug business; and Hilda, who is attending school. The parents were reared in the faith of the Lutheran church and have been life-long members of that denomination. In his political affiliations Mr. Giese is a stalwart Republican and has served as a member of the executive committee, but has never sought or desired office, preferring to devote his energies to his business interests. He is regarded as one of the most successful German-American citizens of Bloomington, and is a worthy representative of the type of men that the fatherland has furnished this republic. He has ever followed progressive and honorable business methods, and his prosperity is the fitting reward of earnest labor.

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**J**ASON T. PLACE, an honored and highly esteemed resident of Mt. Hope township, whose farm of one hundred and sixty acres is located on section 9, three miles from Atlanta, was born in Providence county, Rhode Island, September 10, 1820, and is a son of Stephen and Sally (Rathburn) Place, also natives of that state, the former born in Providence county, the latter in Washington county. The father, whose birth occurred May 29, 1783, was a son of Stephen Place, Sr., and grandson of Enoch Place, whose ancestors were from England and were among the first settlers of Kent county, Rhode Island, where representatives of the family still reside. The father of our subject spent his entire life in Providence county, engaged in agricultural pursuits, and there died October 24, 1849.

In early life Jason T. Place obtained a good practical education, attending both

common and private schools and also a seminary for two terms. When his own school days were over, he turned his attention to teaching, and for several terms successfully followed that profession in his native state. In 1846 he first came west to Illinois, by rail and across the lakes from Buffalo, New York, to Toledo, Ohio, and arrived in this section of the state in October, of that year. He taught a three-months' term of school in a log school house in the Mt. Joy neighborhood, Logan county, but the following spring returned to Rhod Island, where for a time he engaged in farming during the summer months and in teaching school through the winter season. After his father's death he took charge of the home place.

On again coming to Illinois in 1856, Mr. Place purchased land on section 32, Mt. Hope township, McLean county, on which an old house and barn were standing. It was known as the Deacon Moss farm and was headquarter for runaway negroes who were making their way to Canada by means of the "underground railroad." For four years our subject operated that farm, during which time he taught two terms of school, and then sold the place, and in 1861 returned to Rhode Island, having charge of the old home farm there for the following seven years. In the meantime he was married in his native state, April 15, 1862, to Miss Martha E. Peck, who was born, reared and educated in Massachusetts, a daughter of William Peck, who was one of the Mt. Hope colony and surveyed the land for them in McLean county. She was a sister of the first wife of Joseph Pitts, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume.

Selling the homestead in Rhode Island,

Mr. Place returned to McLean county, Illinois, in 1869, and the following year purchased the farm on section 9. Mt. Hope township, where he now resides. He has since remodeled the residence, erected a barn and other outbuildings, set out an orchard and ornamental trees and has made many other improvements upon the place which add greatly to its value and attractive appearance.

Mr. Place has been called upon to mourn the loss of his estimable wife, who passed away May 25, 1896, and was buried in McLean cemetery, where a substantial family monument marks her last resting place. She left two sons: Raymond M., a graduate of the Illinois University and now a reporter for the Daily News of Chicago; and Thaddeus R., who assists his father in the operations of the home farm.

In politics Mr. Place was originally a Jeffersonian Democrat, but in 1860 supported Abraham Lincoln for the presidency and has since been a stanch Republican. His son also affiliates with that party, and the younger is now serving his fourth year as highway commissioner in Mt. Hope town, having succeeded his father in that office, which was held by our subject for the long period of twelve years. Mr. Place has also been school trustee, a member of the school board about nine years, and secretary of the district. His life has been honorable and upright and he merits and receives the respect and esteem of all who know him.

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OTTO W. GAFFRON, a well known and prominent grocer of Bloomington, has demonstrated the truth of the saying that success is not the result of genius, but the

outcome of a clear judgment and experience. During his boyhood and youth he became thoroughly familiar with the business, and is to-day one of the most successful grocers of the city.

Mr. Gaffron was born in St. Louis, Missouri, July 3, 1856, and is a son of Philip W. Gaffron, for many years one of the honored and highly respected business men of Bloomington. The father was born in Bielfeldt, Germany, in 1820, and remained in his native land until after he attained his majority, there learning the trades of a dyer and cigar maker. On coming to the United States he first located in Cleveland, Ohio, where he soon found employment. There he was united in marriage with Miss Henrietta Schultz, who was born in Saxony, Germany, and came to this country with her brother, C. A. Schultz, who later became one of the most prominent furniture dealers of Bloomington. From Cleveland the father removed to St. Louis, Missouri, where he engaged in business for himself for two years as a manufacturer of cigars, and in the fall of 1855 came to Bloomington. Here he erected the building which our subject now occupies at No. 812 West Market street, and opened a grocery store. His was the first business done in the west part of the town, which at that time was mostly open prairie land or covered with orchards. However, he soon built up a good business, as that locality became more thickly settled, and was regarded as one of the successful and prominent business men of the city. He acquired considerable real estate of value, and continued his connection with the grocery store until his death in 1890. In his family were nine children who reached years of maturity, of whom our subject is the oldest. The father was a charter mem-



ber of Remembrance Lodge, I. O. O. F., and belonged to the Free Congregational church. The wife and mother is still living.

Otto W. Gaffron, our subject, was educated in the public and high schools of Bloomington and obtained a good business training in his father's store. At the age of sixteen, he was given an interest in the business, and remained in partnership with his father until the latter's death. As his father grew old, he resumed more and more of the responsibility, and at length had the entire management. On the death of his father he became sole owner and to-day has one of the leading retail grocery houses of the city, carrying a large and well-selected stock of staple and fancy groceries and also farm produce. Besides his large retail trade, he also sells considerable at wholesale, and he has met with excellent success as a dealer in real estate. He still carries on business under the firm name of O. W. Gaffron and conducts his grocery in the same building where his father began operations over forty years ago, it being the oldest grocery house in the city.

Politically Mr. Gaffron is an ardent Republican, and has twice been elected alderman from the second ward, serving from 1894 until 1897, with credit to himself and to the entire satisfaction of his constituents. He was a member of the water board and judiciary committees—two very important committees—and during his incumbency the fine new high school, the Lincoln school and the Washington street school were also built; the public library was accepted, and fifteen miles of paving were laid, more than doubling the previous amount in the city. He was one of the most popular and influential members of the council, but since retiring from that office has taken no active

part in political affairs. Socially he is a member of the Improved Order of Red Men and the Benevolent and Patriotic Order of Elks.

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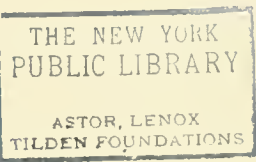
PETER WHITMER. It has been left to modern civilization to perpetuate by written record the lives of those who have been prominent factors in the upbuilding of towns, cities and countries. Deeds of battle have been the theme of story and song from the earliest age, but the man who quietly remained in the ranks of business, performing each day's duty as it came to him and promoting the general prosperity through his individual efforts and close attention to business, was unnoticed by the singer, poet and historian. To-day we would know who are the founders of the cities, and the promoters of their enterprises, and we find in biography a subject that yields in point of interest and profit to no other. The life of him whose name heads this sketch represents an eventful and interesting career. Integrity, activity and energy have been the crowning points of his character, and few, if any men, are more widely and favorably known in McLean county than Peter Whitmer.

Many years ago when the colony of Pennsylvania was just opening up the vast region of the Keystone state to the influence of civilization and improvement his ancestors came to this country. His grandfather, Peter Whitmer, came from Lancaster, England, to the then new country, and purchased twelve hundred acres of land from members of the Penn family, the old parchment deed of transfer being still in existence. The Whitmer's became very extensive land owners and people of promi-





PETER WHITMER.



nence in the locality where they resided. The great-grandfather of our subject, Peter Whitmer, Sr., was a native of Germany, whence he removed to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, making that his home until his death. The parents of our subject, Peter and Mary (Hess) Whitmer, were both natives of Antrim township, Franklin county, Pennsylvania, and the father engaged in farming there. He was born in 1775, and died in 1852. His wife, who was born in 1785, spent her entire life in that county, and passed away in 1844. They were members of the Mennonite church, and people of the highest respectability. They had eleven children, all of whom are now deceased with the exception of Mrs. Mary Royer, who is living near the old homestead; Rev. Carl Whitmer, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania; and Peter of this review.

Mr. Whitmer, the well-known banker of Bloomington, was born February 22, 1828, and acquired his education in a log school-house in Antrim township, Franklin township, Pennsylvania, and by study in his leisure hours. He left home at the age of sixteen and went to Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, to learn the trade of saddlery and harness-making. There he remained until 1849, after which he worked as a journeyman in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, wherever he could find positions. During all this time he sought a favorable location, and at length decided to make Bloomington the scene of his future labors. He arrived here in April, 1852, and formed a partnership with M. L. Moore under the firm name of Moore & Whitmer, engaging in the manufacture of harness and saddlery, at the corner of Washington and Clark streets, the site of the People's Bank. After two years Mr. Whitmer sold out to his partner and

engaged in the grocery business in Center street as a member of the firm of Parke, Whitmer & Hoopes. For three years he was connected with that enterprise, and then embarked in the lumber business, having a yard on each side of the city. For seventeen years he was identified with the lumber trade, and at the time of his retirement therefrom was the oldest representative of the business in Bloomington. He enjoyed a very extensive and profitable patronage, his sales having reached extensive proportions. On the 10th of January, 1875, however, he sold out and accepted the presidency of the People's Bank, to which position he had been elected. He was one of the original incorporators and stockholders of the bank, but hitherto had never been officially connected with it. During almost a quarter of a century he has remained at its head, and to his wise policy and capable management the success of the bank is attributable. It is regarded as one of the most reliable financial institutions in this part of the state, having weathered all kinds of financial storms, yet standing firm and unshaken through all. It is capitalized for one hundred thousand dollars and has a surplus and undivided profits amounting to one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars. Since the third year of Mr. Whitmer's presidency it has regularly paid a quarterly dividend of three per cent. and the stock has sold for three hundred per cent. above par, but has been upon the market rarely. The corporation purchased the ground and erected the fine building which they now occupy and which is especially adapted for their purpose. Mr. Whitmer succeeded his former partner, Mr. Parke, as president of the People's Bank, and is now the second oldest in years of service in

such a position in Bloomington. He has a justifiable pride in the institution, which is alike creditable to the city and to the stockholders.

From time to time many enterprises have been established in the city to which he has given his support and encouragement. He was one of the organizers of the Bloomington Canning Company, is one of its heaviest stockholders and has been president from the beginning. The company also owns and controls a branch factory at Chenoa, and puts up one hundred and twenty-five thousand cases or two hundred and fifty car loads of canned goods annually. Employment is furnished between three and four hundred operatives during the busy season and more or less throughout the year. The enterprise has proved not only a profitable one to the stockholders, but has been of great benefit to this section of the state by furnishing a market for many of the products produced by the farmers. Ira S. Whitmer, a son of our subject, is secretary of the company and gives his entire time to the management of the business, which has gradually increased from year to year until the goods are now sold throughout the United States and are so well known that it is no longer necessary to advertise them through traveling salesmen, for orders come direct from the merchants to the factories. This company ships more goods than any other canning concern in the state and their success is now thoroughly established. Mr. Whitmer has also been and is a stockholder in various other enterprises, but is not officially connected therewith, save as a director of the Union Can Company, which manufactures tin cans at Hoopston, Illinois.

On the 22d of February, 1855, Mr.

Whitmer married Miss Lucy McDonald, a daughter of John and Lucy (McCoy) McDonald, who was born and reared in Winchester, Kentucky, but in 1852 came to Bloomington, where he was in business for many years. Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Whitmer. Mary, the eldest, is the wife of Dr. Asa Hooper, of Kansas City, and has three children, Lucy, Lucile and Bernice. Olive is the wife of J. O. Wilson, vice-president of the People's Bank. Ida is the wife of H. C. Hawk, of the firm of J. F. Humphries & Co., wholesale grocers of Bloomington, and they have two children, Henry Clark and Lucy. Ira S., the secretary and manager of the Bloomington Canning Company, married Eva Fry and has one child, Pauline. Leroy G., a graduate of Eureka College and the Wesleyan Law School, is now an attorney of this city; he married Mildred Murphy, and they have one child, Robert P.

In the affairs of the city Mr. Whitmer has always taken a deep, zealous and commendable interest, and Bloomington owes not a little of her substantial development to his efforts. He withholds his support from no movement for the public good, has been a generous friend to the hospital, the Public Library and to the Coliseum, and advocates all interests for the moral, intellectual and social welfare of Bloomington. For almost a half century he has been a member of Remembrance Lodge, I. O. O. F., and has filled all of its offices. He helped to found the Bloomington Club and retained his membership therein for a few years, but preferred the pleasures of home to those of club life. For forty years he has been a member of the Christian church, becoming identified therewith when it was a small organization, and laboring for its interests un-



til it has become one of the strongest in the city. For many years he has served as deacon and trustee, was a member of the building committee, and has contributed liberally to its support. He held the office of supervisor of Bloomington township for ten or twelve years, but about 1890 refused to serve longer. He was at one time alderman for the second ward, but has never cared for public office, and when unanimously nominated for mayor by the Republicans, when a nomination was equivalent to an election, he refused to accept the candidacy. For twenty-eight years he resided on West Front street, but in 1897 purchased his present home at the corner of East and Locust streets. His business career has been one of marked success, yet his prosperity has been gained along the most commendable lines of legitimate business and is but the reward of his well-directed and consecutive effort. So worthily has it been won and so well has it been used that the most envious could not grudge him his wealth, but while he has gained triumphs in commercial life, he has also won that warm personal regard which is a tribute to his many good qualities of head and heart, to his true nobility of character.

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**HENRY W. LANGSTAFF, M. D.,** is a skilled physician and surgeon of Colfax, whose knowledge of the science of medicine is broad and comprehensive, and whose ability in applying its principles to the needs of suffering humanity has gained him an enviable prestige in professional circles. A native of McLean county, the Doctor was born near Colfax, in Martin township, Illinois, and began his education in the public schools of this locality. Later he attended

the Lexington high school and for three years was a student in Eureka College.

The Doctor's ancestry is Scotch, Welsh, English and German. His paternal great-grandfather, a soldier of the Revolutionary war, was a native of Scotland and one of the earliest settlers of New Jersey. The grandfather, Asa Langstaff, was born in that state, in 1783, was educated in its pioneer schools, and followed the occupation of farming throughout life. He married Lany Boylan, of his native state; and four years later removed to a wild tract of land in Muskingum county, Ohio, where he died in 1868. His widow subsequently removed to Union county, Ohio, where she passed away in 1876. She was born in 1789.

Henry C. Langstaff, the Doctor's father, was born near Zanesville, Ohio, March 18, 1816, and during his boyhood and youth attended the public schools and assisted his father in clearing, breaking and cultivating the home farm. At the age of fifteen he began learning the cabinet maker's trade, and later devoted his attention to carpentering. In 1839 he was united in marriage with Miss Elsie Wintermute, of Muskingum county, Ohio, and ten years later they removed to Bloomington, Illinois, where for a period of six years he was employed in the machine shop of Flag & Ewing. He then purchased a farm in Martin township, where for several years he followed agricultural pursuits and also did contract work, erecting dwellings and school houses in the locality. On selling that place he purchased another farm in Yates township, which he conducted until 1872, when he removed to Lexington and practically retired from business. His has been an honorable and well spent life, and he is now enjoying the fruits of his labor. His first wife died in April,

1865. The children born to them were as follows: John, a banker of Lexington, who married Isabel Powell, of Martin township, and has one daughter, Margaret D., now the wife of B. C. Van Lear, of Bloomington; Leonidas, who died in 1891; Brown, a farmer and stock breeder of Missouri; Rachel, wife of William Beddows, of Fort Scott, Kansas, by whom she has two daughters, Elsie M., now the wife of Lewis Brown, of Union City, Ohio, and Ella, wife of a Mr. Ragsdale, of Kansas City; and Henry W., our subject, who completes the family. The father was again married, December 10, 1868, his second union being with Mrs. Cynthia A. Wilson, widow of B. S. Wilson and daughter of Joseph and Rebecca Smith, formerly of Ohio. By this marriage two sons were born, Frank G. and Oscar P.

In 1881 Dr. Langstaff commenced the study of medicine with Dr. Stiles, of Lexington, and the following year entered Hahnemann Medical College of Chicago, from which institution he was graduated in 1885. He immediately began practice at Colfax, and it was not long before his recognized skill and ability soon won for him a liberal patronage. He has met with most excellent success in his chosen calling, and stands high in the esteem of his professional brethren.

On the 7th of September, 1880, Dr. Langstaff was united in marriage with Miss Olive Williams, only child of James B. and Julia A. (Powellson) Williams, of Lawndale township, and by this union four children were born, three sons and one daughter, namely: J. Hartzell; Henry R. W.; O. Glenn, who died in infancy; and E. Josephine. Mrs. Langstaff's father was born near Coshocton, Coshocton county, Ohio, March 13, 1831, and is a son of James B. Will-

iams, Sr., and grandson of Richard Williams, who with his eleven sons served as a soldier of the Revolutionary war. Two were killed in the battle of Long Island and another on the retreat at St. Clair, while a fourth was taken prisoner but finally escaped. James B. Williams, Sr., was born in Pennsylvania, in 1797 and at the age of seventeen moved to Ohio. He was one of the defenders of his country in the war of 1812, and at the end of that conflict returned to his home in the Buckeye state, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits and became a large land owner. He married Miss Nancy Ballantine, of Muskingum county, Ohio, and to them were born nine children, five sons and four daughters: Rebecca, Mary, Richard B., James B., Perry, Alexander, Catherine, Nancy and John. The father of these children died in Coshocton county, Ohio, and later the mother with her family came to McLean county, Illinois, where she departed this life in 1878. James B. Williams, Jr., the father of Mrs. Langstaff, passed his early life in his native state and was educated in its public schools. At the age of twenty-two he went to California from Illinois, and was successfully engaged in gold mining there until 1858. Returning to Ohio, he was married in April of that year to Miss Julia A. Powellson, of Coshocton county, who was born June 18, 1838, a daughter of Conrad and Lucinda (Honey) Powellson, of Virginia. After their marriage they came to McLean county, Illinois, and first located in Lawndale township and later in Lexington township. Both were earnest and consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church, took an active part in its work, and Mr. Williams served as a local preacher for that denomination.

The Doctor owns three farms, one of

one hundred and sixty acres in Martin township, one of eighty acres in Lawndale township, and one of eighty acres in Lexington township. He is a member of the Illinois State Homeopathic Medical Society and in social as well as professional circles stands high, for he is a pleasant, genial gentleman who makes many friends and easily retains them.

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**WILLIAM N. JONES**, a leading farmer and prominent citizen of Anchor township, is a native of McLean county, born in Smith's Grove, Towanda township, February 3, 1853, and is a worthy representative of one of its honored pioneer families, of much more extended mention is made in the sketch of F. M. Jones, on another page of this volume. The grandfather of our subject, Abraham R. Jones, Sr., was born in Cayuga county, New York, October 17, 1791, and while in Ohio hauling provisions for the army during the war of 1812 became acquainted with Miss Matilda Noel, who in 1813 became his wife. She was born in Kentucky, in 1795, and from there went with her family to Maryland, and to Ohio, in 1802. In 1856 she and her husband came to McLean county, Illinois, three of their sons having previously come to this state. They were numbered among the prominent early settlers of his locality, where they purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, making their home here until called to their final rest. In their family were the following children: Levi is now living on a farm in Clark county, Ohio. Cyrus, a resident of San Jose, California, owns a ranch in that state, is interested in a wholesale grocery and a bank at San Jose, and also has about eight hundred

acres of land in McLean county, Illinois, and is a stockholder in the Third National Bank of Bloomington. William W. owned real estate in this county and in Kansas, and died in Towanda, in 1895. Nelson owned eight hundred acres of land in Towanda township and died at Smith's Grove, in 1896. Francis M. is a retired farmer of Bloomington and a stockholder in the Corn Belt Bank at that place. Abraham R. was the father of our subject.

Abraham R. Jones, Jr., was born in Clark county, Ohio, May 3, 1824, and in early life followed farming there. Prior to his marriage he came to Illinois and purchased land in McLean county, which he at once commenced to improve and cultivate. Returning to his native county, he was married there, April 25, 1860, to Miss Nancy Donovan, and immediately afterward brought his bride to the home he had prepared for her in Smith's Grove, Towanda township, this county. Here he prospered in his undertakings and at one time owned thirty-five hundred acres of valuable land in Towanda and Anchor townships, but before his death disposed of all but nine hundred and eighty-five acres. He was an able financier and excellent business man, and his life was such as to win for him the confidence and high regard of all with whom he came in contact. Of his six children three died in infancy, and Abraham L., who sold out his interests here and went to Texas for a location, died in McKinney, that state, September 9, 1881, of typhoid fever. Those living are Alice J., wife of John E. Cameron, of Smiths Grove, by whom she had eight children, but two are now deceased; and William N., of this review.

During his boyhood and youth our subject attended the district schools, and for



six terms was a student at Wesleyan University, Bloomington. He lived at home until reaching man's estate and was then married, September 12, 1877, to Miss Alice A. Crotinger, who was born in Licking county, Ohio, January 6, 1859. Her parents, Abraham and Harriet (Dumbald) Crotinger, were also natives of that state and were descended from Pennsylvania German stock.

After his marriage Mr. Jones operated his father's farm for a half interest in the stock and grain, and when the property was divided after the latter's death he came into possession of two hundred and eighty-five acres on sections 27 and 34, Anchor township, where he now resides, and for the balance of his interest in the estate received cash. He has since tiled the farm, erected good and substantial buildings there, and made many other improvements which add greatly to its value and attractive appearance. After operating it for one year, he rented it and moved to Anchor, where he purchased two houses and lots and a store building, and embarked in general merchandising, which he carried on for eight years. For one year he was also engaged in buying grain, but in 1892 disposed of all his property in the village and returned to his farm, where he has since lived, giving his entire time and attention to agricultural pursuits.

After a short illness, Mrs. Jones, who was a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and a most estimable lady, died March 9, 1895. By her marriage to our subject she became the mother of the following children: Corydon L., born June 25, 1878; Abraham R., March 3, 1880; Edith, September 23, 1881; William F., January 20, 1883; May, November 21, 1884;

Carl E., August 30, 1886; Don Leo, August 14, 1888; Florence, March 18, 1890; and Eva, May 29, 1893. With the exception of Corydon L., who is now engaged in farming for himself in Anchor township, the children are all at home, and Miss Edith is acting as her father's housekeeper. Some of the family are also members of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which Mr. Jones is a liberal contributor, although not a member of any religious denomination. He is a stockholder in the Saybrook Fair Association and a supporter of every interest for the public good. He casts his ballot with the Republican party, and has filled the office of township trustee two terms, assessor three years, school director five years, and is now clerk of the school board. While a resident of Anchor he served as assistant postmaster for five years, and he was also appointed to take the eleventh census by the congressman of the district. His official duties have always been discharged in a prompt and most commendable manner and as a citizen he has always been found to perform any duties that have devolved upon him. He is a man honored, respected and esteemed wherever known, and most of all where he is best known.

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JAMES W. BECHTEL, senior member of the firm of Bechtel & Bierbower, dealers in hardware and agricultural implements, Colfax, Illinois, was born in the township of Lexington, McLean county, Illinois, December 18, 1861, and until twelve years old remained on the farm in that township. He then accompanied his parents to Normal, Illinois, and completed his education in the high school of that city. He later attended a business college



in Bloomington, taking the regular course, and graduating therefrom. His father, John Bechtel, was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, in 1826, and in the schools of his native county received a common-school education. In his youth he spent five years as an apprentice to learn the blacksmith's trade, this being at a time when one was required to learn every branch of the trade, and not some separate part, as at the present time. He later spent three years in learning the carpenter's trade. He married Mary Williams, of Coshocton county, Ohio, and they became the parents of four sons and two daughters—John, Nancy, Gabriella, Iona, James W. and Mary. All died in infancy except James W. and Iona, who married Harper Williams, but is now deceased. The father died in 1878, and the mother in 1874.

After leaving the business college, our subject gave his attention to the cultivation of his father's farm, and continued to be thus engaged from the fall of 1880 until 1886. He then came to Colfax and engaged in the hardware trade in connection with grain buying, and was thus employed until 1889, the business being conducted under the firm name of Bechtel & Wiley. Selling out the business, he was not actively employed for two years. In 1892-3, he was tinner and implement man for Harris Brothers, but in the latter part of 1893 he purchased from Mr. Crumbaker a half-interest in his hardware and agricultural implement business, which was located in their present stand. That partnership continued about one year, when Mr. Crumbaker sold his interest to Mr. Ellington, and the firm of Bechtel & Ellington continued to do business until 1897, when Mr. Ellington sold out to Mr. Bierbower. The firm is

now doing an excellent business, carrying a full line of hardware, agricultural implements, wagons and carriages.

On the 19th of March, 1879, Mr. Bechtel was united in marriage with Miss Salina Manning, of Normal, but formerly of Gridley, Illinois, and by this union there have been born two sons and two daughters—Bernice L., Elmo R., Ivo R. and Lola B. The father of Mrs. Bechtel, Laban Manning, was born in Virginia in 1825, and was educated in the common schools. He learned the carpenter's trade in Utica, New York, and followed that occupation, in connection with contracting, during his entire life. In 1852 he married Eliza J. Pierce, of Plainfield, New York, and at once came to Illinois, locating in Gridley township, where he purchased a tract of land. He erected the first house in the village of Gridley. When the war for the Union commenced, Mr. Manning felt that it was his duty to enter the service of his country, and accordingly he enlisted in Company B, One Hundred and Eighth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was killed at the battle of Chickamauga. In the service he held the rank of second sergeant. His wife survived him many years, dying on the 18th of April, 1895. They were the parents of four daughters—Mary J., Alice S., Sarah C. and Salina. The church home of the parents was that of the Methodist Episcopal.

Mr. Bechtel has held the office of alderman of Colfax, and in 1898 was president of the board of education. In his political views he is decidedly Republican. Fraternally, he is a member of Martin Lodge, No. 715, I. O. O. F., and of Autonomy Lodge, No. 392, Daughters of Rebecca, in which latter order Mrs. Bechtel is a member, and is also a member of Court of Honor,

Modern Woodmen of America. Socially, he and his wife are held in high esteem in Colfax, and wherever known. As a business man he is enterprising and progressive, and is always up with the times. His ancestry is German and Welsh.

**JAMES A. WELCH.** Among the sturdy, energetic and successful farmers of McLean county, who thoroughly understand the vocation which they follow, and consequently are enabled to carry on that calling with profit to themselves, is the subject of this notice. He is actively engaged in agricultural pursuits upon his well-ordered farm of two hundred and twenty-seven acres, which is pleasantly located on section 12, Randolph township, within ten miles of Bloomington.

A native of this county, Mr. Welch was born in Downs, January 6, 1849, and is a son of Henry Welch, who was born in Northampton county, Pennsylvania, in 1816, and came to this county when a young man, in 1835, taking up his residence in Downs township, where he entered land and opened up a farm of some twelve or thirteen hundred acres. He was one of the most enterprising and energetic farmers of his community and due success was not denied him. He died upon his farm in 1881, honored and respected by his fellow citizens. In this county he had married Miss Minerva Caldwell, a native of Hamilton county, Ohio, who came here when a young lady and is still living at the age of seventy-nine. This worthy couple became the parents of eight children, four sons and four daughters, as follows: Sarah, who died in childhood; William, who married and died at the age of twenty-four years;

Susan, deceased wife of George Bishop; Eliza M., wife of William Ried, of West township; Alfred J., of Downs township; George H., of Downs; Elizabeth, wife of Frank L. Hollingsworth, who lives on the old Welch homestead in Downs township, and James A., our subject.

Reared upon the home farm, James A. Welch was educated in the district schools of the neighborhood, and gave his father the benefit of his labors until twenty-three years of age. On the 23d of November, 1872, in Randolph township, he was united in marriage with Miss Myrtilla J. Bishop, a native of this county, and a daughter of James Bishop, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume. To them have been born four children: Henry, who married Nettie Craig, of Downs, and follows farming in Empire township; Florence, wife of J. O. Killion, of Downs township; May M., and Nellie, both at home.

Upon his marriage, Mr. Welch located on the farm where he still resides, and has since made many improvements upon the place, including the erection of a commodious and pleasant residence, good barns and outbuildings. He has planted fruit and ornamental trees, has tiled and drained the fields, and converted it into one of the most desirable farms of the locality. Mr. Welch cast his first presidential vote for General U. S. Grant, in 1872, and since that time the Republican party has always found in him one of its most ardent supporters, but he has never cared for the honors or emoluments of public office, though he has served as a member of the school board for some years. Religiously he and his family are faithful members of the United Brethren church, with which he is officially connected, and are all held in high regard wherever

known. As a citizen he is ever ready to discharge every duty devolving upon him and is a man honored and respected by his fellow men.

**A**BRAHAM BROKAW. This gentleman is entitled to distinction as one of the ablest financiers and one of the most progressive and enterprising business men of Bloomington, and with the interests of the city he has been prominently identified for many years. Upon the commercial activity of a community depends its prosperity, and the men who are now recognized as leading citizens are those who are at the head of extensive business enterprises. He is a man of broad capabilities who has carried forward to successful completion whatever he has undertaken.

Mr. Brokaw was born near Somerville, Somerset county, New Jersey, November 6, 1815, a son of William and Helen (Ditmus) Brokaw. He remained at home and attended the common schools of the neighborhood until fifteen years of age. The following three years were spent with a cousin, and he then went to Mechanicsville, New Jersey, to learn the wheelwright's trade, but before he finished his apprenticeship he came west to Illinois in 1836 with his boss and spent a short time in Springfield, where he found work at his trade, and that place being on the line of the old stage route from St. Louis to Chicago he had a great deal of repairing to do.

Before a year had elapsed Mr. Brokaw became a resident of Bloomington and opened a shop on Madison, near Front street, where he carried on business for himself, making the first set of wagon wheels ever manufactured in the city. He

had come to Bloomington on foot and commenced business here with little means, but by fair and honorable dealing and good workmanship he soon built up an excellent trade. Early in the '40s he purchased two lots—the one on which the Peoples Bank now stands and the adjoining one on the west, both of the original town—and for these he paid one hundred dollars for the one on the corner and twenty-five dollars for the other. Upon this property, he engaged in business for some years, but finally sold the corner lot, then unimproved, to the banking company which now has it, for twenty-three thousand dollars. In connection with the work at his trade, Mr. Brokaw, in partnership with Oliver Ellsworth, began the manufacture of plows, our subject doing the wood work, and in this undertaking he met with excellent success. As his financial resources increased, he bought real estate from time to time during its depression, and before the Illinois Central Railroad received their grant, he purchased seven hundred and thirty acres of land in Old Town township, for seventy cents per acre. His friends predicted that his taxes would soon cause his failure, but he fenced the property and during the civil war leased it for one thousand dollars a year, which was a great help to him in his financial operations at that time. He still owns that land, besides a large amount of other real estate and personal property, and it is now worth one hundred dollars per acre. After a time Mr. Brokaw retired from the wagon business and purchased the interest of his partner in the plow manufactory and the property on North Main street, where he carried on operations in connection with his wife's brother, Oliver Ellsworth, until the early



'70s, furnishing employment to as many as twenty men and manufacturing many of the plows used in breaking the prairies of this state. Mr. Ellsworth made the first steel plow that would scour successfully on these prairies. Mr. Brokaw began business here before the railroad was built and the material for his work was first brought from the river. Of later years he has given his attention principally to the management of his real-estate interests, and is now the owner of over five thousand acres of valuable land in McLean county, being the wealthiest man in this section of the state.

In October, 1847, Mr. Brokaw married Miss Eunice Ellsworth, who came to Bloomington in 1837, and they have now traveled life's journey together for over half a century, sharing its joys and sorrows, its adversity and prosperity. They have always made their home at No. 213 East Washington street, and Mrs. Brokaw is a member of the Congregational church.

In his younger years Mr. Brokaw took an active part in public affairs and served as township trustee and assistant supervisor. He has always been a stanch Democrat and is now the oldest supporter of that ticket in the city. Being a good clarionet player, he became one of the first members of the old Bloomington band, which at that time was considered the best in the state, the one in Chicago having disbanded, and was called to many different places to play. The leader, George Deitrich, was a skilled player and could arrange the music for the band. Of this noted organization Mr. Brokaw is the only one now living in this city who was a member of this band. As a business man he is most widely known, and his life record is one well worthy of emulation, containing many valuable lessons of incentive, and

showing the possibilities that are open to young men who wish to improve every opportunity for advancement. He has arisen from a humble to an exalted position in the business world entirely through his own efforts and he has been justly recognized as one of the most energetic and enterprising citizens of Bloomington.

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WILLIAM S. GANTZ is an agriculturalist of energy and ability, who is successfully engaged in his chosen calling on section 24, Cropsey township. He was born in York county, Pennsylvania, October 11, 1862, and is a son of Conrad and Leah (Schaffer) Gantz, also natives of that county. Throughout his active business life the father worked at the carpenter's trade, which he learned in his youth, and also engaged in farming on a small scale, owning and operating land in York county. With the exception of one pleasure trip, when he went west as far as Kansas City, he never left his home in Pennsylvania, but died there. His wife is still living on the old homestead with one of their children. Of the nine children born to them one died in infancy, and Jane, wife of N. Stein, died in the east in 1895 leaving one son, Winfield. Those living are as follows: Mary is the wife of Emanuel Snyder, a farmer near Glen Rock, Pennsylvania, and they have one son, Melvin; Lizzie is the wife of Jacob Krout, a farmer of York county, Pennsylvania, and they have four children: Paul, Jacob, Adam and Leah; John, a butcher of Mexia, Texas, is married and has two children; Leah is the widow of Edwin Strevig, a farmer of Pennsylvania, and has five children: Lizzie, Mary, William, Celeste and John; James, a railroad carpenter of York,



Pennsylvania, is married and has four sons: Cleason, James, Raymond and Cortez; William S., our subject, is the next in order of birth; Conrad lives with his mother at the old home in Pennsylvania.

The greater part of the education of our subject was acquired in the district schools of his native state, but he also attended school for a few months in Quincy, Illinois. He remained under the parental roof until twenty years of age, and came to this state in 1882. He found work as a farm hand in Woodford county, and was thus employed for eight years. At the age of twenty-eight he was united in marriage to Miss Jennie L. Parminter, who was born in Woodford county August 11, 1867, her parents, John and Harriet Parminter, being early settlers of Woodford county. Her mother died in 1891, her father April 2, 1899. The children born to our subject and his wife are: Leah, Howard, Arthur and Grace.

After his marriage Mr. Gantz worked on a farm in Woodford county for three years and then rented one hundred and sixty acres of his father-in-law. This tract is located on section 34, Cropsey township, and here Mr. and Mrs. Gantz have made their home, it being willed to her at his death as her portion of the estate. When our subject first located here the place was only partially improved, but he has since converted it into one of the best farms of its size in the locality, and as a farmer and stock raiser he is meeting with marked success. He is progressive, energetic and reliable, and commands the respect and confidence of all with whom he comes in contact either in business or social life. He and his wife hold membership in the Metamore Congregational church, and he affiliates with the Democratic party, and is a member of the

Royal Circle of Anchor. He is now serving his fourth year as school director, but has never been an aspirant for political honors, preferring to give his entire attention to his farming interests.

JACOB W. MYERS, of Colfax, traces his ancestry back to Germany, his great grandfather Myers being a native of that country, from which he emigrated to Pennsylvania at a very early date. His grandson, John Myers, the father of our subject, was born in Pennsylvania in 1777, but emigrated to Kentucky, where he married Miss Mary Lindley, and they became the parents of nine children: Catherine, Jacob W., Elizabeth, Sarah, William, John, George, Daniel and Margaret A. In 1835 he moved his family to McLean county, Illinois, and located at Blooming Grove, purchasing the land on which the alms house now stands. He died in Bloomington in 1868, while his wife died in the same city in 1857.

Jacob W. Myers was born in Christian county, Kentucky, April 26, 1826, and was nine years of age when he accompanied his parents to McLean county. In the schools of this county he obtained a good common-school education, and his early life was devoted to farming, assisting his father in the cultivation and improvement of the home place. He was married April 22, 1851, to Miss Lurenia L. Phillips, second daughter of Buford and Lucy (Settle) Phillips, of Blooming Grove, McLean county, Illinois. Buford Phillips was born in Virginia in 1801, and was educated in the common schools of his native state. When a young man he emigrated to Kentucky, and in 1825 he married Miss Lucy Settle, and to them were born nine children: Milton, Sarah, George,

Lurenia L., Mary, Martha, Harrison, Joseph and Theodore. George was a soldier in the Union army during the civil war, and was killed at Galveston, Texas. Mr. Phillips died in 1876. His wife, who was born in 1808, is yet living, and makes her home with her daughter, Mrs. John Vannoston, near Gibson City. Benjamin Phillips, the father of Buford, was born in Scotland about 1774, and when a young man emigrated to the United States, locating in Virginia. He married Betsy Moss, who was then living in Virginia, but who was also a native of Scotland, born in 1779. She came to this country with her parents when but ten years of age. To Benjamin and Betsy Phillips were born six children: Buford, William, Harrison, Lorenzo Dow, Delilah and Louisa. He died in 1809, his widow surviving him many years, dying in 1868.

To Mr. and Mrs. Myers eleven children have been born—Mattie, Charles, George W., Dora, Lutie, William, Edward, Nellie, John, Jessie and Theresa. Of these, William, John and Edward died in infancy. Mattie married Henry Miller, and they have two children, Ira and Fannie. They reside in Missouri, where he is engaged in farming. Charles married Abbie Little, of Chicago, and they have two children, Ollie L. and Jacob. He is employed as a motorman in Chicago. George W. married Lottie Brockway, and they have one daughter, Nellie. They reside in Chatsworth. Dora married Oliver Hanna, and their three children are Theresa M., Jesse O. and Laura N. They reside in Sheridan, Wyoming, where he is in the grocery trade. Lutie married John VanDyke, and they have five children, Duke, Lloyd, Eugene, Lutie E. and Perry. They reside in Buffalo, Wyoming, where he is en-

gaged in the clothing trade. Before their marriage, Mrs. Hanna and Mrs. VanDyke were teachers in the public schools of Colfax. Nellie was also a teacher in the public schools of Colfax, and died at the age of twenty. Jessie married J. C. Johnston, a merchant of Colfax. Tressie married Walter Redmon, of Forrest, a conductor on the Wabash. They have one child, Madeline.

In 1878 Mr. Myers moved with his family to Lexington, Illinois, where they lived four years, and then came to Colfax, where he has since been principally engaged in training thoroughbred Kentucky horses, while Mrs. Myers conducted the hotel near the depot for six years, and later a boarding house for seven years. In politics Mr. Myers is a stanch Democrat. Religiously, he and his wife are members of the Christian church.

PHILIP J. DECKER owns and operates a fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres in Cropsey township, McLean county, and is classed among the leading, progressive and practical farmers of the community. He was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, February 9, 1836. His father, George J. Decker, was born in Palatine or Rhine, Bavaria, October 3, 1803, and during his youth learned the cooper's trade, which he followed for several years. In 1830 he crossed the Atlantic to America, and found employment with the Chemical Manufacturing Company, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. As the result of the industry and enterprise displayed in that position he was enabled to accumulate some capital and with it purchased a tract of land near York, Pennsylvania. Later he sold that property and removed to New York City, where he

engaged in coopering for seven years. On the expiration of that period he once more purchased a farm near York, Pennsylvania, where he remained until 1870, when he sold out and came to McLean county, Illinois. Here he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Lawndale township, operating the same until a few years prior to his death, when he went to live with his son, a successful farmer in Cropsey township. He died in 1887, at the advanced age of eighty-four years. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Margaret Schwab, was born in Palatine, Bavaria, in 1813. Her father died there, and the mother, with her five daughters, crossed the Atlantic to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where Margaret became the wife of George Decker about the year 1834. They were the parents of six children, one of whom, Elizabeth, died at the age of seven years. The others are Philip J.; John, who is living in Colton, California, and is the father of George Decker, the famous base-ball player of the Chicago team; Lewis, who resides on a fruit farm in Oregon, and has one son, John; Henry, of Gallatin, Missouri, who has two children, Elmer and Lizzie; and William, who resides in Montana.

Philip J. Decker was educated in New York and gave his assistance to his father until twenty-two years of age, when he began teaching school, making his home, however, with his parents. He dates his residence in Illinois from 1864, in which year he became superintendent of a large farm in Livingston county. After two years he went to Fairbury, where he worked in an elevator for the man of whose farm he had had charge. In 1866 he purchased eighty acres of land in Cropsey township, and after completing his term of service in

connection with the elevator he located upon his farm in 1869 and has since continued its cultivation. He has extended its boundaries until it now comprises three hundred and twenty acres of the richest farming land in the township. It was nearly all unbroken prairie when he took up his residence there, but is now under a high state of cultivation, the rich fields yielding to him excellent crops. He is also engaged in stock raising and in both branches of his business is successful. The farm was originally a tract of swampy prairie land, but he has tiled it, has erected commodious and substantial buildings and has planted beautiful fruit and shade trees and shrubbery, so that he has one of the most desirable farms in his section of the county.

On Christmas day of 1866 was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Decker and Miss Mary E. Austin, daughter of John and Lucy Austin. They have eleven children, namely: Charles, of Cropsey township, who is married and has three children, Eddie, Onie and Marian; Jennie, wife of William F. Noll, who resides in Anchor and has a son Ferdinand; Albert, who is married and with his wife and son Clarence resides on a part of the home farm; Philip; Edna; Althea; George; Peter; Maud; Walter and Alvin. With the exception of the two first named, all of the children are still on the home farm and the younger members of the family are attending school. The sons operate the land, thus enabling Mr. Decker to take life easily, although he still superintends the farm. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in politics he is a Democrat. He has served as assessor and school director for a number of years and is now filling the office of road commissioner in his township. He is presi-



dent of the Belle Prairie Township Mutual Insurance Company, which office he has ably filled for ten years. He is one of the best known residents in this locality, has been prompt and faithful in the discharge of his official duties, and as a man and citizen is held in high regard.

JOSEPH A. PITTS is one of the most prosperous and successful agriculturists of McLean county, living on section 33, Mt. Hope township, where he owns and operates a valuable farm of eight hundred acres, pleasantly located two and a half miles from McLean. He dates his residence in this county from the 10th of June, 1852, and during his time he has borne an active and prominent part in the development of this section of the state.

Mr. Pitts was born in Dighton, Bristol county, Massachusetts, November 14, 1823, and belongs to an old family of that state of English origin. His paternal grandfather, George Pitts, who was born in Massachusetts, August 16, 1752, was a soldier of the Revolutionary war. The father, Hon. Joseph Pitts, was also a native of Bristol county, born July 14, 1794, and became one of its most prominent and influential citizens, being called upon to fill a number of important official positions. He represented his district in the legislature of Massachusetts and was collector of customs at the port of Fall River under Presidents Jackson and Van Buren. He married Miss Elizabeth Slade, of Bristol county, a daughter of Hon. Baker and Hannah Slade, who belonged to a noted family.

To a limited extent our subject attended the common schools of his native state, but is mainly self-educated. He served an ap-

prenticeship of three years to the blacksmith's trade, and later followed the same as a journeyman for the same length of time. He next ran an engine in a machine shop and in a saw mill for two years. In 1849 he was one of the men who braved the dangers of a long ocean voyage and the hardships of a miner's life in the hopes of quickly acquiring a fortune in the gold fields of California. He took passage on a sailing vessel, which instead of rounding Cape Horn started through the Straits of Magellan where they were cast away by the vessel going ashore for seventy-two days, being finally relieved by a passing vessel, which took them up the Pacific coast to Calio, a seaport of Peru, where the American consul made arrangements for the transportation of the passengers on a sailing vessel to San Francisco. When Mr. Pitts arrived at that place he was entirely without means and was obliged to seek some employment at once. Going on board a vessel he worked for the captain for twenty-one days and then started for the mines on foot, a distance of one hundred and ten miles. After working there through the winter, he went to other mines farther north, where he remained until February, 1852. In connection with mining he also engaged in trading with the miners, buying and selling goods, and in both undertakings met with fair success. He returned east by way of the Nicaragua route and New York, arriving at his home in Massachusetts February 13, 1852.

On the 24th of March, near his old home in Bristol county, he was married to Miss Betsy V. Peck, who was born, reared and educated in Massachusetts. Her father, William Peck, was a surveyor, who surveyed a large tract of land in McLean



county, Illinois, for the Mt. Hope colony, and received one hundred and sixty acres for his services, this being a part of the farm on which our subject now resides. It was once sold for taxes but was redeemed by Mr. Pitts, who obtained the title to it. He started alone for the west soon after his marriage, going by train and the Great Lakes to Chicago, by the canal to Peru, Illinois, the Illinois river to Pekin, and by team to the land in Mt. Hope township, McLean county, previously owned by his father-in-law. After making arrangements for a home here, he returned to Massachusetts for his wife. In October, 1853, he built a house upon his land, and has since devoted his energies to the further improvements and cultivation of his farm. To the original tract of one hundred and sixty acres he has added from time to time until he now has eight hundred acres of as fine farming land as is to be found in the county. In early days he experienced many hardships and privations incident to pioneer life, and the lumber for his house he had to haul from Pekin, a distance of thirty-four miles. He has made many useful and valuable improvements upon his place, and is regarded as one of the most enterprising, energetic and successful farmers of his community.

Mr. Pitts lost his first wife November 24, 1867. To them were born four children, namely: John J., now a resident of Bloomington; Elizabeth, an invalid at home; Mrs. Lemira Snow, a widow residing in Canon City, Colorado; and Augustus D., a physician of Point Arena, California. In McLean county, Mr. Pitts was again married, May 16, 1876, his second wife being Augusta A. Starbuck, a native of Cumberland county, Illinois, and a daughter of

Seth and Nancy Starbuck, natives of North Carolina and Ohio, respectively. Her father, who was a blacksmith by trade, came to this state about 1836, and was married in Cumberland county. Five children have been born of the second marriage of our subject, namely: Herbert A., who is now attending the Bunker Hill Military Academy; Sarah, who holds a business position in Bloomington; Lewis E., who is a graduate of the McLean high school, and is now at home; and Ralph L. and George W., both at home.

Politically Mr. Pitts is a Jacksonian Democrat, and though he cares nothing for official preferment, he has served his fellow-citizens as highway commissioner for seven years, and as a member of the school board and president of the district. He has been remarkably successful in life, yet his success is by no means the result of fortunate circumstances. It has come to him through energy, labor and perseverance, directed by an evenly-balanced mind and by honorable business principles. He is well-known and highly respected, and has made many friends throughout his long and useful career.

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THOMAS WEEKS, JR., mine manager of the Colfax Coal and Mining Company, Colfax, Illinois, was born in Worcestershire, England, March 25, 1850, and was eleven years old when he accompanied his parents to the United States. In the common schools of his native land, he began a common-school education, and after the arrival of the family in this country he attended school here for a short time. His father, Thomas Weeks, Sr., was also a native of Worcestershire, England, and was

born in May, 1825. By occupation he was a coal miner, following that business both in England and after he came to the United States. Before leaving his native land, he was united in marriage with Miss Rebecca Wakelham, who was born in the same shire in which he was born, and with his family he came to the United States in 1861, locating in Kewanee, Henry county, Illinois, where he proceeded to make for them a home. By his union with Rebecca Wakelham, he became the father of eight children, namely: Hannah, who was drowned when in her fourteenth year; Thomas, Jr., our subject; Emma, who died in infancy; Ephraim, Rachel, Heber W., Israel and Martha. The mother of these children died in 1864, three years after coming to this country, and for his second wife, in 1865, Thomas Weeks, Sr., married Miss Betty Bates, formerly of Durham, England, and to them were born two children, Mary Ann and Matilda. Mrs. Betty Weeks died in 1869, but her husband is yet living and now resides in Utah.

Thomas Weeks, Jr., has been a resident of Illinois since 1861, with the exception of three years spent in Iowa. When but a small boy he began working in coal mines, and has since been connected with coal mining industry, serving in every capacity, as common miner, track layer, timber man and pit manager. He is now mine manager of the Colfax Coal and Mining Company at Colfax, a position which he fills to the entire satisfaction of those interested.

Mr. Weeks has been twice married, his first union being with Miss Mary Ann Dixon, whom he married April 28, 1877. Their married life was of short duration, she dying within one year after the ceremony was performed. For his second wife Mr. Weeks

married Miss Sarah Jenkins, of Streator, Illinois, on the 16th of September, 1880. She is a native of Ohio. Three children have come to bless their union, Bertha L., C. Elmer, and Edgar Lloyd. John Jenkins, the father of Mrs. Weeks, was born in Blan Llyn, Plywedd Llandisel Shire, Abertavi, Wales, October 11, 1815. He married Elizabeth Lewis, who was born in Llan-on, in the same county, August 7, 1823, and to them were born twelve children, the two oldest dying in infancy. Those surviving infancy were Susanna, Jane, David, Elizabeth (who died at the age of seven years), Mary Ann, Margaret E., Sarah, Thomas, John Lewis and Elizabeth, second. With his wife and children that were born in Wales, Mr. Jenkins came to the United States in 1847, first locating in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, and later removing to Ohio. Mr. Jenkins died February 7, 1899, and his wife February 19, 1899.

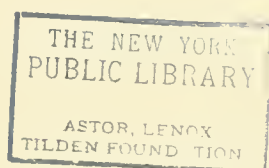
In politics, Mr. Weeks is a staunch Republican. Having come to this country at the commencement of the civil war, and believing the Republican party the one favoring the freedom of all men, he naturally drifted into that organization. Fraternally he is a member of Colfax Lodge, No. 799, A. F. & A. M., and he and his wife are members of Medora Chapter, No. 298, O. E. S., of Colfax. The family attend the Presbyterian church.

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**ELDER WILLIAM G. ANDERSON**, who is practically living a retired life in Colfax, Illinois, has been an honored citizen of McLean county for almost half a century, during which time he has led a very active life and done his full share in the development of the county. He is a native



ELDER WILLIAM G. ANDERSON.





of Indiana, born in Jefferson county, October 12, 1818, and is the son of William G. and Anna (Whitaker) Anderson. The family was originally from Scotland, but were among the very earliest settlers of this country.

William G. Anderson, Sr., was born in Pennsylvania, in 1790, and moved with his parents to Kentucky when a boy, and in the pioneer schools of that state he obtained his education. By occupation he was a farmer. In Kentucky he married Miss Anna Whitaker, whose father was a close friend and companion of the celebrated hunter, Daniel Boone, and to them were born nine children, seven sons and two daughters, and of these only three survive—James B., Anna and William G. James B. is now a resident of Harvard, Kansas. He married Martha J. LaFevre and they have four children: Alzora, Amazona, Whitney and Irene. Anna married Lemuel Lindley, now of the state of Washington. They have six children: Jennie, Della, Oska, Amazona, Belle and William. With his family William G. Anderson, Sr., emigrated to Indiana in 1816. He was a soldier in the war of 1812, and died in 1862. His wife survived him about one year, dying in the summer of 1863.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in his native state and was educated in the common schools of pioneer times in Indiana. He was reared a farmer's boy, and in farming he has been actively interested ever since. He was married in Jefferson county, Indiana, October 20, 1839, to Miss Jane Sheridan, daughter of James and Phoebe (Ricketts) Sheridan, and to them five children have been born, four sons and one daughter. William Harrison, who was born in 1840, married Charity Williams, a

native of Ohio, and they have two children, John M. and Metta. He is engaged in farming and stock-raising, and since the establishment of Colfax has been actively identified with its mercantile interests. Francis Marion engaged in farming until 1883 in this county. He then went to Dakota, where he remained for a time, and still following the occupation of a farmer. He now resides in Colfax, and is engaged in the poultry business and farming. In 1861 he enlisted in Company C, Ninety-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry and with his regiment went to the front. He was wounded by gun shot in the left arm and was honorably discharged in the spring of 1863. He married Mary Williams, and they have two children, Ollie and Edith. Ollie married Wick Cotton, and they have four children. James Madison, the third son of our subject, enlisted in Company K, Eighth Illinois Infantry, and was wounded in the charge on Fort Blakesley, April 15, 1865, a few days after General Lee's surrender, and died of his wound that night. He was a brave boy soldier, a sacrifice on the altar of his country. Mary E. married Benjamin F. Payne, of Colfax, who was a soldier in Company A, Sixteenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, enlisting at the age of fifteen years, and who was honorably discharged in September, 1864, before he was eighteen years old. To them four children were born, William O., Jennie M., Whitney and Maude A. Mr. Payne was an attorney at law, and while residing in Dakota, was elected probate judge, and served with distinction for five years, one year by appointment, and four years by election. Mr. Payne was an attorney for the Illinois Central Railroad Company up to the time of his death, and from 1876 to

1882 was attorney for the Lake Erie & Western Railway Company. He was also attorney for the Chicago & Northwestern Railway from 1884 to 1888, and was assistant inspector general of the Grand Army of the Republic under General Lucius Fairchild four years. He died in April, 1893. Millard Fillmore, the youngest son of our subject, is a farmer by occupation, and is making a specialty of breeding pure blooded Poland China hogs. He married Miss Lou Smith, and they have one son, Lawrence.

Mr. Anderson came with his family to McLean county in 1855, and located near Bloomington, where he remained three years. In 1857 he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 3, Martin township, and in the following year moved to the place. On the land was a log cabin into which the family moved, and in which they lived several years. In that cabin religious services were held on Sundays, and often at other times. In 1862 Mr. Anderson bought one hundred and sixty acres adjoining on section 2, and in 1864 purchased forty-two acres, a part of the northwest quarter of section 3. In 1865 he erected his present dwelling, which has now been the family residence for more than a third of a century. After his farm had been placed under cultivation and was well improved he turned his attention to raising short-horned cattle and Poland China hogs, in which line he met with good success.

From the time Mr. Anderson came to McLean county, especially from the time that he located in Martin township, fortune has seemed to smile on him. He was always an enterprising and far-seeing man, always ready to embrace any opportunities for bettering his condition. He was chiefly instrumental in securing the Kankakee branch of

the Illinois Central Railroad through Colfax in 1880, and all of the village north of the railway, including the station, is built on his original purchase on section 3. In addition to the real estate already mentioned, Mr. Anderson is the owner of five hundred and forty acres near Olney, the county seat of Richland county, and one hundred and sixty acres in Dakota. He also owns a store building and dwelling house at Colfax.

In 1891, Mr. Anderson organized the State Bank of Colfax and was its president for six years. After doing a successful business during its continuance, he sold it to J. Porter Arnold in 1898. He was instrumental in causing the west coal shaft to be sunk, which is now in successful operation. A stock company was organized to conduct the coal business, and he was its first president, a position he held four years, until he sold his interests to other parties. In 1893 a joint company was organized to manufacture oil cans and novelties and Mr. Anderson was elected president of the company. The business was successfully conducted by the company for two years, when parties from Bloomington bought the plant.

In 1859 Mr. Anderson was ordained a minister of the gospel in the Christian church, and for twenty years was more or less actively engaged in the ministry, preaching the gospel in a very acceptable manner. While he was practically retired from active work as a minister, he has never lost interest in the cause, and although at an age when so many think they must give way to younger men, he yet teaches the Bible class in the Christian Sunday school at Colfax. While actively engaged in the work, for nearly three years he was financial agent for Eure-

ka College, which is under the fostering care of the Christian church, and during the time he raised for the institution thirty-five thousand dollars for each month in which he was employed. He has reason to be proud of this record, and the college is under an everlasting debt of gratitude for what he accomplished for it.

In 1880, after the inauguration of President Garfield, he was appointed postmaster of Colfax, and held the position for seven years. During the years 1868 and 1869 he served the township as a member of the board of supervisors in an acceptable manner. He has, however, never cared for official position, as his business interests have always required his greatest attention. Like the greater number of well-to-do men of this country, he commenced low down on the ladder, and by persistent efforts he has been enabled to mount higher. In all his work his good wife has been indeed to him a help-meet, and has ably seconded him in his efforts. Like her husband, she is also an honored member of the Christian church, and in the doctrines of which she has the utmost faith. For sixty years this worthy couple have trod life's journey together, and although the snows of many winters rest upon their heads, they are yet light of heart, and when the summons comes to "come up higher," they will be ready to go.

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**F**RANCIS ARMSTRONG JOHNSON, deceased, was for many years one of the leading and successful business men of Bloomington, one well known and respected for his integrity of character. He was born in Coshocton, Ohio, June 8, 1834, and was the son of John and Susannah (Boyd) Johnson, the former of Scotch-Irish descent, and

the latter a native of Ireland. By occupation the father was a farmer in Coshocton, an occupation in which he continued after his removal to Illinois. With his family he came to McLean county, in 1853, and in different parts of the county, and also in DeWitt county, Illinois, engaged in his regular calling. In the winter of 1859-60, he went with his family to Texas, with a view of making that his future home, but it being shortly after the John Brown raid in Virginia, the northern man was not welcome in any of the southern states, and Texas was no exception to the rule. Accordingly in the spring of 1860 he retraced his steps, and once more became a citizen of McLean county, where the remainder of his life was spent.

The subject of this sketch spent his boyhood and youth in his native state, and in its public schools received his education. For a time he was employed in a grocery store in his native town, and thus received a fairly good business training, which was doubtless of value to him in future years. He was nineteen years old when he accompanied his parents to Illinois, and here he assisted his father in farm work, continuing with him until he was twenty-four years old. He was then united in marriage with Miss Lorena J. Bowman, a native of Venango county, Pennsylvania, and daughter of Alexander and Elizabeth (Robbins) Bowman, both of whom were natives of the same state.

Alexander Bowman was of Scotch descent, but of good old Revolutionary stock, his father being a soldier in the war for American independence, serving under General Washington. Alexander Bowman showed his bravery and love of country by serving as a soldier in the second war with



Great Britain in 1812. The children of the Revolutionary hero became widely scattered, a part of them going to Virginia, and others to Kentucky. Alexander Bowman lived in Erie county, Pennsylvania, from which he removed to Venango county, where Mrs. Johnson was born December 14, 1843. From Venango county he moved to Belmont county, Ohio, and in 1852 to Bloomington, Illinois, where he lived a retired life. In his native state and in Ohio he was engaged in farming. About 1857 he went to Missouri, where he had some farm lands, and there resided a few years, and then returned to Bloomington, where his death occurred February 28, 1882. Reared in the Presbyterian faith, he was a member of that body in early life, but before leaving the east he became a member of the Christian church, in which faith he died. He was well versed in the Scriptures and was a strong advocate of Christian union. His good wife, the mother of Mrs. Johnson, died in 1854.

Shortly after his marriage Mr. Johnson, with his young bride, accompanied his father's family to Texas, and for the same reason which prompted the father he also returned to McLean county in the spring of 1860. On coming back he located in Bloomington, where he engaged in the stock business, buying and shipping to the various markets. In due time he came to be one of the largest dealers and one of the best known men in the county. He continued in the business until the year of his death and met with gratifying success. He had the confidence of the farming community to a remarkable degree, farmers having faith in him that he would always pay them the highest market quotations for their stock.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were the parents

of four children, two of whom are deceased. Frank died at the age of fourteen years. William, who was a railroad engineer, died at the age of thirty-four years. Charles A., who resides in Bloomington, married Miss Marguerite Harvey, and they have one child, Lorena M. He is a railroad engineer, in the employ of the Chicago & Alton Railroad. May married Frank Clark Capen, and they have one daughter, Helen. The family of which Mr. Capen is a member is represented on another page of this work.

In early life Mr. Johnson was an ardent Democrat, but later was more independent, casting his vote for the man rather than the party. Religiously he was identified with the Christian church, of which body his wife is also a member. Both were members of the church in Bloomington for many years, and the interest long maintained by both is continued by Mrs. Johnson, whose faith in the teachings of the church is strong and enduring.

Mr. Johnson departed this life June 20, 1891, his death being sincerely mourned by a loving wife and children and by a large circle of friends. His body was laid to rest in the beautiful cemetery at Bloomington, there to wait the resurrection day. Mrs. Johnson yet resides in their neat home on the corner of Clinton and Locust streets, where she has lived since 1884. Like her husband, she is held in high esteem.

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LEVI BECK, who owns a valuable farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 36, about three and a half miles from the village of Heyworth, which is his post-office address, came to McLean county in the fall of 1867. He was born in Ashland



county, Ohio, July 1, 1845, and is the son of John and Barbara Ann (Jeffries) Beck, both of whom were natives of the same state, where their marriage was solemnized. They later moved to Putnam county, Indiana, where his death occurred in 1873. His wife survives him and makes her home in Paris, Edgar county, Illinois. They were the parents of ten children, of whom seven are yet living. Michael served three years in the Union army during the civil war, but is now railroading in Indiana. Daniel also served three years in the Union army, but is now engaged in farming in Edgar county, Illinois. John was also a soldier in the civil war and died in the hospital at Knoxville, Tennessee. Levi, of this review, was next in order of birth. William is living retired in the city of Chicago. Samuel is in the Black Hills. David resides in Denver, Colorado, and is engaged in mining. Maggie married Jacob Oswath, and resides in Indiana. Frank grew to manhood and settled in Paris, Illinois, but is now deceased. Mrs. Mary Howard is a widow residing in Paris, Illinois.

The boyhood of our subject was spent in his native state, and when thirteen years old he accompanied his parents to Putnam county, Indiana, where he grew to mature years, and where his education was completed in the common schools. He was reared on a farm, and followed the vocation of farmer throughout life. In 1864, he followed the example of his brothers and enlisted in the service of his country to assist in suppressing the rebellion. He became a member of Company C, One Hundred and Fifteenth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, for six months and served until the close of the war. His regiment was sent into Tennessee and did guard duty at Knoxville and Cumber-

land Gap. During his term of enlistment he was sick for one week in the hospital at Ball's Gap, Tennessee, aside from which he was always on active duty. With his regiment he was mustered out and discharged at Indianapolis, Indiana.

After receiving his discharge, Mr. Beck returned to his home in Putnam county, Indiana, where he worked by the month for various parties until 1867, when he came to McLean county, Illinois, and rented a farm in Funk's Grove township, where he remained one year. He then rented another farm, near where he now resides, and lived there for three years. He was married in Funk's Grove township, September 16, 1869, to Miss Jennie Matlock, but who was principally reared in DeWitt county, Illinois. She is a daughter of James and Eveline (Hensler) Matlock, the former a native of Indiana, and the latter of Virginia. In his native state Mr. Matlock engaged in farming, and coming to DeWitt county, Illinois, he there engaged in the same occupation. He died in DeWitt county in 1893, but his wife survives him and resides on the old homestead in that county.

After his marriage Mr. Beck remained on the farm where he was living at the time for one year longer, and then rented a farm of Harrison Baker for two years. From the Baker farm he came to the farm where he now resides, and for ten years rented the place, and in 1884 bought the farm, and has here since continued to reside, actively engaged in mixed farming and stock raising. On coming to the farm he found it in a very poor condition as regarded improvements, the dwellings being in a very dilapidated condition, indeed. He has since built a neat residence and good barn, and the place presents a very different appearance. Com-

mencing life in McLean county, as he did, without means, and being compelled to rent for so many years, he certainly has reason now to be thankful for his success.

To Mr. and Mrs. Beck three children were born, as follows: Frederick, who died at the age of fifteen years, September 28, 1888 Myrtle May, who yet makes her home with her parents, and Earl, who died at the age of nine months.

Mr. Beck has always been a stanch Democrat in politics, but has never been a politician in the sense of office-seeking. He has, however, served as a member of the school board. Mrs. Beck is a member of the Presbyterian church at Heyworth. Both have many friends, especially in the southern part of McLean county, where they are best known.

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**J**OSEPH EHRESMAN. Among the sturdy, energetic and successful farmers and stock raisers of Anchor township, who thoroughly understand the vocation which they follow, and are consequently enabled to carry on their calling with profit to themselves, is the subject of this sketch. He is a native of Illinois, born near Eureka, in Woodford county, April 9, 1851, a son of Christian Ehresman, whose birth occurred in Germany in 1800. It was about 1830 that the father emigrated to America, and after a few years spent in Ohio, came to this state, first locating in Stout's Grove, Danvers township, McLean county, but later removing to Woodford county, where he became the owner of two hundred and forty acres of fine farming land. Throughout life he followed agricultural pursuits. In political sentiment he was a Democrat. He died in Woodford county in 1874.

Christian Ehresman was twice married before coming to this country, his first wife being Miss Annie Barnard, whose birthplace was near that of her husband, and to them were born four children: John, Elizabeth, Phœbe and Christopher. Of this family, only the daughters are now living. After the death of his first wife, Mr. Ehresman married her sister, Miss Maggie Barnard, by whom he had four children: Annie, Fanny, Mary and Peter. Of these, only Annie is now living. After coming to his country, the father married Miss Fanny Barnard, a sister of his former wives, she having come to the United States with her father. Eight children were born to this union: Magdalena, Barbara, Katie, Joseph, Susan, Lydia, Samuel and Jacob. The mother died in November, 1895, at the age of seventy-one years.

Joseph Ehresman, of this review, was educated in the district schools of Woodford county, and until twenty-two years of age he gave his father the benefit of his labor. He then rented the home farm for two years, and for the following two years operated another rented farm. After his marriage, in 1876, he purchased forty acres of land in his native county for thirty dollars per acre, and at once turned his attention to its improvement and cultivation, erecting thereon good buildings. On selling that place in 1880, he bought ninety-nine acres in Danvers township, McLean county, for twenty dollars per acre. This was also improved, and when disposed of in 1889 he purchased one hundred and twenty acres in Anchor township for forty-two dollars and a half per acre, upon which he has since made his home. In 1895 he added to it a forty-acre tract, for which he paid seventy-seven dollars and a half per acre. It was then

but partially improved, and to its further development and cultivation he has since devoted his time and attention, so that he now has one of the best farms of its size in the township.

On the 7th of September, 1876, Mr. Ehresman married Miss Anna Salzman, who was born in Butler county, Ohio, June 25, 1847, near Hamilton, and is a daughter of Christian and Mary (Imhoff) Salzman. The father was born in 1811, in Lorraine, now a province of Germany, but formerly belonged to France, and the mother's birth occurred near the Rhine, in Germany, in 1806. On their emigration to the new world they settled in Ohio and later removed to Indiana, the father becoming the owner of eighty acres of land near Lafayette. There his wife died January 4, 1890, and he passed away at the home of one of his daughters, in Kansas, May 31, 1895. In their family were six children, namely: Magdalena, Mary, Katie, Elizabeth, Anna, wife of our subject; and John, who died in 1887. Our subject and his wife have two sons: Charles O., born August 25, 1877, lives at home and is engaged in farming for himself on rented land near by; and Walter L., born July 19, 1880, is attending school and assisting in the operation of the home farm. The family hold membership in the United Brethren church, of which Mr. Ehresman has been a steward, and they take an active interest in church and Sunday-school work. Socially, he is a member of Gibson Camp, No. 235, M. W. A., and the Loyal Sons of America at Gibson City, and politically is identified with the Republican party. Although he has served as school director for seven years he has never cared for office, preferring to give his undivided attention to his business interests.

MARSHAL J. HAGAR, a worthy representative of the agricultural interests of this county, who was born in Bullinger county, Missouri, June 5, 1849, a son of James Andrew and Jane (Spencer) Hagar. His father was a native of North Carolina, and successfully carried on farming there until his removal to Missouri, where he purchased two hundred and fifty-six acres of land. There he continued his agricultural pursuits and prospered in his undertakings. His death occurred in 1866. His wife was born in Missouri, and after the death of her husband she disposed of the farm and removed to Illinois, making her home with her son until called to her final rest. She was the mother of seven children, but only two are now living. The daughter, Elizabeth, is the wife of James Allman, and resides near the old homestead in Missouri. She has two children, William and Marion. The deceased members of the family were Thomas, who was married and had two children, but all have now passed away; Henderson and Marion, who died in the Confederate army, for which they were drafted during the civil war; Sarah, wife of William Proctor, who resides in Missouri, and by whom she had six children, namely: Grover and Harlan, who are living near Charlotte, Illinois; and Sallie, Thomas and Henderson.

Mr. Hagar, whose name introduces this review, was educated in the district schools of Missouri, and remained under the parental roof until he had attained his majority. He was married March 17, 1870, to Minerva A. Ward, who was born in North Carolina July 17, 1849, and removed to Missouri with her parents, David and Minerva Ward, during her girlhood days. They were natives of North Carolina, and



the father died when Mrs. Hagar was only twelve years of age, after which the mother made her home with her children until her death in 1896. They were the parents of five sons and two daughters, but three are now deceased. The living are James S. Ward, a farmer of Martin township; John F., who is living a retired life in Anchor; and Mrs. Hagar.

For two years after his marriage Mr. Hagar operated and rented a farm in Missouri, and since 1873 he has resided at his present home in Cropsey township. He rented the land for six years and then purchased three hundred and twenty acres, paying fifty-two dollars per acre, being the north half of section 32. He has since made some valuable improvements upon it, including the erection of excellent buildings, and now has one of the best farming properties in the county. With the aid of his sons he operates all of his land, carrying on general farming and stock raising.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hagar have been born eight children: Charles L., who resides on a farm in Lawndale township, and married Leora Hudson, by whom he has two children: Forest and Lola; Mettie, wife of Frank Bechtel, a farmer residing near Charlotte, Livingston county, by whom she has three children: Elza, Orville and Gladys; Edward, who is living at home; Nora, wife of James Smith, a farmer of Anchor township, by whom she has one son, Lawrence; Frank, Julia; Albert and Le Roy, twins. The parents are consistent members of the Christian church, and in politics Mr. Hagar is a Democrat, but has never aspired to office. He has served as school director for twelve years since living in the state, and takes an active interest in the advancement of the cause of education. Socially he is

connected with the Modern Woodman of America, the Court of Honor and the Royal Circle, and of the last named is a director.

CYRUS FRANK, senior member of the well-known firm of C. E. Frank & Company, general painters, has been a resident of the city of Bloomington since 1864, and since 1865 has been actively engaged, either as a journeyman or master painter. He was born in Somerset, Somerset county, Pennsylvania, October 27, 1845, and is the son of Jacob and Catherine (Weyand) Frank, both of whom were born in the same county and state, the former in 1817 and the latter in 1814. They were the parents of nine children, Cyrus being third in order of birth. The family is of old German-Pennsylvania stock, the paternal grandfather Frank being born in Somerset county, where he was a well-known citizen, having for years conducted a tavern on the old Bedford pike, which was a well-known stopping place for Ohio drovers and others. The maternal grandfather, William Weyand, was also a native of the same county, where he engaged in farming and where his entire life was spent, dying when past eighty years old. Jacob Frank was a farmer in his native county, and for some years served as tax collector of Somerset. He left Pennsylvania in 1864 and came to Bloomington, where he engaged in the grocery business on Center street for about twenty years, doing a large and successful business. He quit business a few years ago, and now lives a quiet and retired life at his home on South Lee street.

The boyhood and youth of our subject were spent in his native state, and he received a fairly good education in the public



schools of Somerset. He came with the family to Bloomington in 1864 and has since made this his home. Previous to coming here, and in 1862, he enlisted in 1862, he enlisted in Company B, One Hundred and Twelfth Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry, for three years, and with his regiment went to the front. After a few months' service, however, on account of sickness, he was honorably discharged, much to his deep regret. Soon after arriving in Bloomington he could not withstand the appeals of the president for more men, and feeling that his health was restored and duty demanded, he enlisted in the One Hundred and Forty-fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and once more went to the front. With his regiment he was sent to Missouri and with it he remained, doing his duty faithfully and well until the close of the war, being mustered out in the summer of 1865.

On receiving his discharge, Mr. Frank returned to his home in Bloomington, and having commenced the painter's trade before leaving his eastern home, he accepted a position with Plumb & Buffham, general painters of Bloomington, and was with that firm as a journeyman for eight or nine years. He then started in business for himself, in which he has since been actively engaged with the exception of four years when he was in the employ of J. W. Evans Sons & Company. In 1898 he admitted his two eldest sons into partnership, and the firm name was then changed to C. E. Frank & Company. The firm is now doing an excellent business, with many good contracts for the summer of 1899. With one exception, Mr. Frank has been actively engaged in painting in Bloomington a longer period of time than any other man. He

has had the painting of many of the best buildings in the city, some of which he has painted over several times, the proprietors knowing their work will be well done. He has often given employment to as many as fifteen men at a time. For many years his shop was on Washington street, south of the court house, but of recent years he has occupied his present location No. 410 North Center street.

On the 7th of February, 1871, Mr. Frank was united in marriage with Miss Eliza Alice Lape, of Bloomington, and daughter of David Lape, and by this union there are seven children: Maude B., now Mrs. Thomas Radford, of Bloomington; Clyde D., who married Minnie Dillion, of Bloomington, by whom he has two children, Leon and Hazel, is in partnership with his father; Edward R., also a member of the firm; Roy L., who is working for the firm; William Arthur, who is learning the painter's trade with the firm; May and Rose, at home. The family reside in a pleasant home, No. 512 West Mill street, which has been the family residence since 1884. Fraternally Mr. Frank is a member of Evergreen City Lodge, No. 265, I. O. O. F., in which he has held office. Religiously he is a member of the Christian church, of which body his wife is also a member.

JAMES A. STEPHENS, residing on section 10, Mt. Hope township, has been prominently identified with the growth and development of McLean county for over forty years. He has ever cheerfully given his support to those enterprises calculated to prove of public benefit, and by building up a good homestead has materially advanced the interests of the county.

Mr. Stephens is a native of Illinois, born in what is now Logan county, December 11, 1836, and is a worthy representative of an honored pioneer family. His father, Adam Stephens, was born in Virginia, in 1801, and was a son of Peter Stephens, also a native of the Old Dominion, and was one of the first settlers of Ohio, having removed there with his family in 1809. There Adam Stephens grew to manhood, married Miss Mary Hoblit, a native of Ohio, and a daughter of John Hoblit, also a pioneer of the Buckeye state. In 1829 Mr. Stephens migrated to Illinois and took up his residence in what is now Logan county, where he opened up a farm of one hundred and sixty acres and there reared his family. Later he made his home for a time in Atlanta, but his last days were spent on a farm in McLean county, near that of his son, James A., where he died in August, 1882, at the ripe old age of eighty-one years. His wife had passed away in 1878 and both were laid to rest at Roach Chapel, where a monument has been erected to their memory. To them were born eight children, but our subject, who was the only son of the family, is now the only survivor.

During his boyhood and youth James A. Stephens aided in the work of the home farm and attended the common schools of the locality, remaining with his father until he reached man's estate. In Logan county, he was married, December 24, 1857, to Miss Martha E. Hatch, who was born at Xenia, Greene county, Ohio. Her father, Stephen B. Hatch, was born in Indiana, but reared and married in Ohio, where he worked at the brickmaker's trade in early life, but after his removal to Logan county, Illinois, in 1856, he devoted his attention to agricultural pursuits. Mr. and Mrs. Stephens

have become the parents of two children. The son, Edward D., resides in McLean, and carries on the home farm. He is married and has two children, Pearl and Irmie. Carrie B., the only daughter of our subject, is now the wife of Robert Bowers and has one daughter, Edna Fay. They live on the farm with our subject. Mr. Bowers is a good mechanic, handy with all kinds of tools, and owns and operates a sawmill, a traction engine, two threshing machines and a drilling machine for boring wells. He is a most active and enterprising man.

After his marriage Mr. Stephens located on a farm in McLean county, and, after renting for two years, he purchased eighty acres of his present farm in 1859. At that time only a few acres had been broken, and the house thereon was in a rather dilapidated condition. To the work of improvement and cultivation he at once turned his attention, and as he prospered in his new home he purchased another eighty-acre tract, making a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres, upon which he has erected a neat and commodious brick residence, made from bricks of his own manufacture at a brickyard on his place. His farm is now well tiled, and at an early day he set out fruit, shade and ornamental trees, many of which are now great trees over two feet in diameter at the base. Mr. Stephens came to the county empty-handed, but through his industry, good management and untiring efforts has become quite well-to-do, and is now the owner of one of the most valuable and well-improved farms of its size in Mt. Hope township.

Since casting his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln, in 1860, Mr. Stephens has been an ardent supporter of the Republican party, and for sixteen years he has

most creditably served as a member of the school board. His entire life has been passed in this section of the state, and has watched with interest the wonderful advancement that has here been made during his memory. During his boyhood he was quite a hunter, and has killed a number of deer, wild turkeys and other game which was then to be found in considerable numbers on the prairies and in the groves of Logan and McLean counties. In those early days he hauled the farm products for his father to Pekin, which was then the nearest and best market place, but was often compelled to sell corn for ten cents per bushel and wheat for thirty cents. Since coming to his present farm he has also sold corn for ten cents.

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MARTIN WILLIAMS, who is engaged in farming in Martin township, is one of the oldest native born citizens of McLean county now living within its borders. He was born in Danvers township, October 18, 1830, and in the pioneer schools of the vicinity of his father's place, he obtained a common school education. His life has always been that of a farmer, and in his young manhood for eight years he was engaged in breaking prairie for the new settlers as they came into the county and took up homesteads. His father, Shadrach Williams, was born in Tennessee in 1803, and when a young man came to McLean county, where he engaged in farming. He was twice married, first to Miss Fannie M. Ashlock, and to them were born three children: Martin, Robert and E. Frances, the two latter being deceased. In 1839 Mrs. Fannie M. Williams departed this life, and for his second wife Shadrach Williams married

Miss Malinda Paisley, and they became the parents of two children, Shadrach, and a daughter who died at the age of sixteen years. Of the children by his first wife, Robert was a soldier in the war for the union, and was honorably discharged at its close. Shadrach Williams died in 1854, and his second wife is also deceased.

On the 17th of November, 1861, Martin Williams was united in marriage with Margaret M. Dean, of Allin township. Her father, Jonathan Dean, was a native of Maryland county, Ohio, and was born in 1816. He received there a common-school education, and in his youth learned the blacksmith trade, which he afterwards followed in connection with farming. He married Mary Elwell, of his native county, and to them were born eight children, two of whom died in infancy. Those living are William S., Thomas W., Abigail, Susan, Margaret M. and Nimrod N. Of these William S. married Rebecca McBride, of Knox county, Ohio, and their six children are Jonathan, Mary, Frank, William C., Laura and Minnie. Thomas W. died at the age of forty-two years. Abigail married William Williams, and they have five living children, George, James J., Ella, Eva and J. Lee. Susan married Joseph Wilson, of Danvers township, McLean county. Nimrod N. was a soldier in the Union army during the civil war, and died while in the service. Mr. Dean died in 1873, and his wife in 1887.

To Martin Williams and wife eleven children have been born, eight sons and three daughters: George D., who died in his eighth year; Robert F., Mary E., William S., John M., James J., Abigail M., Sarah M., Charles S., Martin H. and Thomas L. Of the living, Robert F. married Elizabeth Biggs, of Martin township,



and they have six children, Lessey, Minnie, Edward F., Allen and Alice (twins), and Elmer. Mary E. married John Theniell, and they have two children, Albert H. and Hattie F. William S. married Lavina Rice, and they have one daughter, Daisy G. Abigail married William Ingleheart, of Bloomington, and their children are Olive M. and Vernie. Sarah M. married Charles McAtee, of Martin township, where they now reside. By his first marriage with Mel McReynolds, Mr. Williams had two children, Sarah M., deceased, and Ellen F.

In politics, Mr. Williams is a stanch Republican, a party with which he has been identified since its organization. Religiously he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which body his wife and nearly all the family are members. Born in pioneer times, Mr. Williams realizes something of the trials and hardships one has to endure in opening up a new country, but he has lived to see the country, indeed, to "blossom as the rose," and his native county to occupy a proud position among its sister counties, and to have the reputation of being the best agricultural county in the state.

WILLIAM S. LAIN, who is now engaged in the harness and saddle trade in Colfax, Illinois, was born in McLean county, Illinois, July 18, 1870. He is the son of Isaiah and Mary Ann (Stevens) Lain, the former a native of Richmond county, Kentucky, born in 1832, and the latter of Missouri. They were the parents of ten children, one of whom, Emmitt died in infancy. The others are Betty, Sarah, Della, Nelly, William S., Kate M., John D., Stephen and Burbridge. The family came to McLean county in 1865, first locat-

ing in Dale township, and in 1873 moving into Blue Mound township, where he purchased land and engaged in farming, continuing in the same business until his death, February 22, 1897. His wife passed away some ten years previous, dying June 10, 1887.

In the district schools of Blue Mound township our subject obtained his literary education, after which he entered the business college in Bloomington, from which he was graduated. After completing his education he devoted his energies to farming until October, 1897, when he went to Colfax and purchased the merchant and custom harness business of A. C. Wheeler, which he has since successfully conducted, manufacturing harness, saddles, and keeping in stock everything usually found in a first-class establishment of the kind, including curry combs, brushes, blankets, oils, etc. He employs two men and one efficient foreman, in the person of Henry Wheeler, who is an expert in the business.

On the 6th of February, 1896, Mr. Lain married Miss Mary McClure, of Martin township, and they have now one son, Howard I. Robert McClure, the father of Mrs. Lain, was born in the north of Ireland, May 9, 1842, and in his native land received his education and followed the honorable occupation of farming. He came to the United States in 1860, first locating in Tazewell county, Illinois. He was married August 31, 1869, to Miss Sarah Gillan, who was then living in Tazewell county. Nine years later they came to McLean county, Mr. McClure purchasing eighty acres of improved land on section 13, Martin township, where the family has since continued to reside. In addition to the home farm, Mr. McClure owns one hundred and sixty acres in Missouri.



To Mr. and Mrs. McClure were born seven children, four daughters and three sons, namely: Emma J., Olive M., Sadie A., William J. and Mary L. (twins), John T. and Robert Lee. Emma J. married John McClintock, and they have three children, Owen, Eleanor B. and Charlotte. Olive M. married Ernest Wonderlin, of Martin township, and they have three living children, Grace M., Homer M., and John H. Sadie A. married Curtis Sarbaugh, formerly of Ohio, and they have one son, Chester A. William J. is assisting in operating the home farm. The younger members of the family are students in the public school. Mr. McClure died December 15, 1893, mourned not alone by the family but by a large circle of friends as well.

In politics, Mr. Lain is a thorough Republican. The family attend the Christian church. Fraternally he is a member of Colfax Lodge, No. 799, A. F. & A. M.; of Medora Chapter, No. 298, O. E. S.; Martin Lodge, No. 715, I. O. O. F.; Eudora Lodge, No. 187, K. P. Socially, he stands high in the estimation of the community in which he lives, and, as a business man, he is progressive.

**JONATHAN H. KIRKPATRICK**, well known throughout McLean county as a leading business man, was born in North Liberty, Adams county, Ohio, on the 23d of December, 1844, a son of John and Mary (Postlewaite) Kirkpatrick. The father was probably born in Virginia and the mother was a native of that state. When a young man he went to Adams county, Ohio, where he worked at the tailor's trade, which he had previously learned. He was married in the Old Dominion and died when our sub-

ject was about eight years old, leaving a widow and eight children. The mother came to Bloomington in 1852 in company with an Ohio colony and settled near Oak Grove, in the northwestern part of McLean county. Jonathan H. Kirkpatrick, then a young lad, began work in order to assist in the support of the family. They had a team which was employed by the railroad company at the time of the construction of the Illinois Central. He acquired a good practical education in the common schools, and followed farming in this county until 1861, when he removed to Washington county, Iowa, with his mother, whose death there occurred. She was a member of the United Presbyterian church, and was ever most devoted to her family, discharging faithfully the heavy duty that was laid upon her in the care of her large family at her husband's death.

On removing to Iowa Mr. Kirkpatrick, of this review, purchased a farm near Brighton, and successfully carried an agricultural pursuits for a number of years. He was very energetic and enterprising, and in addition to the improvement of his land he was active in public service, filling the offices of justice of the peace, school director and constable. In August, 1873, however, he disposed of his interests in the Hawkeye state and returned to Bloomington, and since that time has sold stock as an auctioneer throughout McLean and other counties of southern Illinois. He has practically been in control of all the business in his line in this section of the state, and has been most successful in his undertakings. His sales have been larger than those of any other man in the business, and he has sold for seventy-five successive days. Other enterprises have also claimed the attention

of Mr. Kirkpatrick, who is a man of resourceful ability, keen discrimination and reliable judgment. In 1885 he opened a second hand furniture business on North Main street, Bloomington, and from the beginning the new enterprise prospered, his patronage constantly increasing. This was the nucleus of his present extensive furniture business. He owns a half interest in this business, his partner being his son-in-law, Louis W. Howard, the enterprise being conducted under the firm name of Howard & Kirkpatrick. They built the first brick block at 522 and 524 North Main street, a structure three stories in height and ninety feet in depth, with basement, and have the largest single store room in town. They carry all kinds of house furnishing goods, including furniture, carpets, stoves, dishes and in fact everything needed to thoroughly equip a house. Their stock is the most extensive in the city and their trade has reached large proportions, warranting the employment of twelve salesmen in the store. This new building and business was established only five years ago, but has already become one of the leading mercantile establishments in the city. Mr. Howard is the manager of the business, while Mr. Kirkpatrick gives his attention to the sale of stock. In addition to the property and business interests mentioned he owns a building at No. 418 North Main street, a handsome residence and a farm in McLean county.

While in Iowa, Mr. Kirkpatrick was united in marriage to Sylvia D. Sperry, of Malone, New York, who was then successfully engaged in teaching in Brighton, Iowa. They have five children: Mary, wife of Louis Howard; Ida, deceased wife of William Humphrey; Ora, at home; Charles, who

is attending the high school in Bloomington, and Edward, attending school. The family have a pleasant home at No. 611 W. Monroe street, and are held in high regard in the community. The parents are members of the Second Presbyterian church and Mr. Kirkpatrick contributes liberally to its support. He belongs to Evergreen City Lodge No. 265, I. O. O. F., and to Jesse Fell Lodge, No. 164, K. P. He was elected alderman from the second ward on its organization. The term of service was determined by lot and the short one fell to him. He was chairman of the finance committee and also served on the judiciary committee and on the claim committee. He took an active interest in support of all questions for the betterment of the city and labored most earnestly in the face of strong opposition to secure the improvement on West Monroe street and the valley sewer. He is at all times a public-spirited man, giving his aid and co-operation to every movement calculated to advance the educational, social, moral and material welfare of the community.

CHARLES E. SMITH, who resides on section 30, Funk's Grove township, has been a resident of McLean county since 1864, since which time he has been constantly engaged in general farming and stock raising with gratifying success. He is a native of Morgan county, Ohio, born May 9, 1849, and is the son of William L. and Maleta (Cotton) Smith, both of whom were also natives of the same county and state, the former born December 19, 1824. The paternal grandfather, Joseph Smith, was one of the first settlers of Morgan county.

William L. Smith was reared to farm

life, an occupation in which he continued during his active life. Attracted by the glowing accounts that he had heard of the prairie state, and especially of McLean county, he came here with his family in 1864 and purchased a farm of two hundred and twenty acres near the village of McLean, but in Funk's Grove township. There he resided for many years, actively engaged in farm work, and then gave up the management of the farm to his son and lived retired. His death occurred in 1892, and his remains were interred in the cemetery at Funk's Grove. His wife yet survives and makes her home in the village of McLean.

The subject of this sketch spent his boyhood in his native state, where he began his primary education in the public schools. He was fifteen years old when he came with his parents to McLean county, and in the schools of the village of McLean he finished his school life. He remained under the parental roof until after he attained his majority, assisting in the cultivation of the home farm.

On the 22d of January, 1874, Mr. Smith was united in marriage with Miss Martha Jane Longworth, a native of McLean county, and daughter of John and Prudence (Edwards) Longworth, the former a native of Morgan county, Ohio, and the latter of Maine. They came to McLean county in 1836, Mr. Longworth purchasing a farm of two hundred acres in Mount Hope township. He was very successful and enterprising and spent the last years of his life on the old farm. His wife is also deceased.

After marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Smith commenced their domestic life on the farm where they yet reside, Mr. Smith first purchasing eighty acres of partially improved land. He later purchased one hundred

acres additional, and has now a fine farm of one hundred and eighty acres, all of which is under cultivation, and the farm is otherwise greatly improved, having on it a good dwelling, barns and outbuildings, good orchard, shade and ornamental trees, and presenting a very neat and attractive appearance. In his farming, he confines himself to no specialty, but engages in mixed farming and stock raising, and in the latter line he has been reasonably successful.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith have three children. Adah M. is a well-educated young lady residing at home. Flora L. married Nathaniel Ewing, but died in December, 1897. Leslie E., the only son, resides at home. The family are all highly esteemed.

Time certainly passes rapidly away, and anniversaries come before one can scarcely realize that such is the case. On the 22nd of January, 1899, Mr. and Mrs. Smith were made aware that twenty-five years of their happy wedded life had slipped quietly away. Friends to the number of about eighty came in upon them with their congratulations and best wishes and a most enjoyable time was had. Numerous presents were made which were highly appreciated, but the evidence of good will and friendship was better than all, and will always be a pleasing thought to the happy recipients.

Mr. Smith has been a life-long Republican and a firm believer in the principles of the party. He has voted the party ticket since casting his first presidential vote for General Grant in 1872. For some eighteen years he has served as a member of the school board, thus showing his interest in the cause of education. Fraternally he is a member of the Masonic lodge at McLean, and also of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and in the lodge of the latter order



he has passed all the chairs. He and his wife are members of the Order of the Eastern Star. They are both members of the Methodist Episcopal church at McLean, and take an active interest in the work of the church. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

**JAMES L. BALLARD, M. D.** Among those whose lives have been devoted to the healing art and have made for themselves a prominent place in the profession is Dr. Ballard, of Saybrook. He is one of the pioneer physicians of this section of the state, and is now the oldest practitioner in McLean county. For many years he successfully prosecuted his chosen calling, but is now practically living retired, practicing only among his old and particular friends.

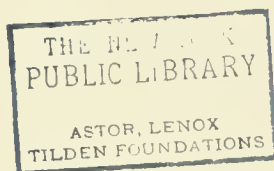
The Doctor was born in Madison county, Kentucky, May 25, 1826, and was reared in Jessamine county, that state. His father, Dr. W. J. Ballard, was a native of Virginia, and when a lad of about seven years went to Kentucky with his father, James B. Ballard, one of the first settlers of Madison county. There Dr. W. J. Ballard grew to manhood and was educated. He engaged in practice in Jessamine county for a number of years, finally coming to Bloomington, Illinois, in June, 1855. Here he opened an office and built up a good practice which he continued to enjoy until his death, being one of the best known and most popular physicians of the city in early days.

Our subject was reared in Jessamine county, Kentucky, and commenced the study of medicine under his father, later attending lectures at the medical department of Transylvania University, Lexington,

Kentucky. He completed his studies there about 1847 and at once engaged in practice. He was married May 23, 1849, to Miss Kate Hogan, a native of Jessamine county, Kentucky, and a daughter of William Hogan, a prominent business man there, who ran a ferry across the Kentucky river. Her paternal grandfather, William Hogan, Sr., was from North Carolina and was an early settler of Garrard county. Her mother, who bore the maiden name of Love Chrisman, was the daughter of Joseph Chrisman, who was from Virginia and was also a pioneer of Jessamine county. In 1855 Dr. Ballard removed with his father's family to Bloomington, and there father and son engaged in practice together for two years. In 1857 our subject came to Saybrook, and for many years his practice extended for many miles into the surrounding country, often receiving calls from Ford, De Witt and Champaign counties. He built up a large and lucrative practice, which he continued to enjoy until 1894, since which time he has practically lived retired.

Nine children were born to the Doctor and his wife, namely: Love is the wife of Dr. John M. Crigler, a prominent business man of Saybrook; Lizzie is the wife of Dr. W. X. Sudduth, a resident of Chicago; Dr. W. H., a dentist, of Chebanse, Illinois; Katie, wife of Charles A. Schureman, a banker and business man of Saybrook; Charles E., who graduated from a medical school of St. Louis, and was engaged in practice with his father until his death in 1891. As a physician and pharmacist he held diplomas in three different states, Illinois, Nebraska and Iowa. He was also a talented musician, who wrote music and was especially proficient as a cornet player.







J. L. BALLARD, M. D.



MRS. CATHERINE BALLARD.

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Lucy is the wife of Jesse Evans, who holds a position in the bank at Saybrook. Dr. John B. is a dentist, of McCook, Nebraska. Mildred is the wife of Dr. Robert Portwood, a dentist, of Saybrook. On the 23d of May, 1899, the children, grandchildren, relatives and friends in a great number, met at the home of Dr. Ballard and his wife to celebrate their golden wedding. They brought with them many tokens of friends and esteem and all had a most enjoyable time.

In his political views the Doctor is a Jeffersonian Democrat, but at local elections he endeavors to support the men best qualified for the offices, regardless of party ties. He has been elected to numerous positions of honor and trust, such as supervisor, township trustee, assessor and justice of the peace and has discharged the various duties of these positions in a most commendable and satisfactory manner. Socially he is a Master Mason, belonging to the lodge at Saybrook, and his wife is a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

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**A**ARON HARVEY CONGER, who is now practically living a retired life on his farm at Fletcher, in Blue Mound township, was born March 19, 1830, near Newark, Licking county, Ohio. He traces his ancestry back to 1667, a period of more than three hundred years, the family being of Scotch descent, but early settlers in this country. The subject of this sketch has in his possession a "family tree," in which the various branches of the family are traced back to 1669, and which is a great curiosity.

Gershom Conger, the grandfather of our subject, was a native of New Jersey, where he engaged in farming on quite an extensive scale for the time in which he lived. While

the owner of two farms, and raising and marketing a large amount of produce, it is said that he never owned a wagon. In the winter he would haul his produce to market on sleds, and at other seasons carry the products of his farms to market on horse-back, something which seems to farmers of the present day to be almost incredible of belief. Gershom Conger married Hannah Post, who was also of Scotch descent, but born in New Jersey. Aaron Conger was their third eldest son. He was born in Greene county, Pennsylvania, March 7, 1696. He was a well educated man, and for some years engaged in teaching in the schools of his native state and in Ohio.

Aaron Conger grew to manhood in his native state, and there married Mary McVey, also a native of Greene county, Pennsylvania, and to them were born twelve children, of whom two died in infancy. At present writing there are four living, of whom our subject is the oldest. Mrs. Sarah Jane Pierson is now living in Kansas. James M. resides in Macomb, Illinois. Mrs. Martha Barnhouse is living in Grant county, Oregon. She is the owner of one of the largest sheep ranches in the state, and which contains about three thousand acres. The business of this ranch is very extensive. Aaron Conger was also a very extensive farmer and stock raiser, and in the latter branch of his business gave special attention to horses, for which there was a great demand in his day. In politics he was a Democrat. His death occurred in 1876, while his wife survived him two years, dying in 1878.

Aaron Harvey Conger was reared in his native county, and was educated in the typical log school house, with its rude benches and wide fire-place. While his op-

portunities for acquiring an education were not of the best, he made the best use of them, and by extensive reading in after years he has become a well-informed man. He was reared to farm life, and remained at home assisting in the farm work until he was twenty-one years old. He then went to work in a woolen mill, and in three years mastered all its branches. Leaving the mill at the expiration of that time, he went to work for a stock buyer, raising and marketing his stock, and with him he continued four years. That was in this county. He first received eighteen dollars per month, but before leaving the employ of that gentleman he was getting fifty-five dollars per month.

Saving his money, Mr. Conger came to McLean county in 1859 and purchased eighty acres of his present fine farm, for which he paid twelve dollars per acre. From time to time he added to its area until it now contains two hundred and eighty acres. When he first came to the county the site of his present farm was covered with wild prairie grass, and there was not a tree or building in sight. Wolves deer and rattlers were abundant, and on several occasions he had encounters with the wolves, but always succeeded in driving them away. On one occasion he was attacked by a wounded deer, but after a severe fight he succeeded in killing it. In these encounters he was fortunate in not receiving any wounds. Several times when wishing some venison he would mount his horse, and after running down a deer would kill it with a club. By hard work and good management in time he succeeded in making of his place a most valuable farm, on which he set out a good orchard, and erected the necessary buildings.

On the 28th of April, 1861, Mr. Conger was united in marriage with Miss Ellen White, daughter of George C. and Julia (Noel) White. She was born in Tippecanoe county, Indiana, while her father was a native of New York, and her mother of Clarke county, Ohio. When she was eleven years of age she came with her parents to McLean county, and here her union with Mr. Conger was celebrated. By this marriage there were nine children, six of whom are living. Two of the number died in infancy, and one, Cora Miles, when twenty-four years of age. Clara is the wife of Nicholas H. Watson, and they have one son, Lynn. He is engaged in the drug business in Anchor, Illinois. Charles C. is making his home on a farm near Fletcher, and has the management of the two elevators in Fletcher, of which his father owns a half interest. He has two children, Gladys and Edith. Bertice H. is also living at home and has the management of the home farm. F. Pearle, now Mrs. Frank Parish, is living in Indianapolis, Indiana, where her husband has an interest in a large cracker establishment. Blanche is the wife of Jacob Phillips, who is engaged in the mercantile business in Holcomb, Ogle county, Illinois. Ethel is living at home and is engaged in teaching near her father's residence.

Mr. and Mrs. Conger are members of the Baptist church, in which he has been a deacon for several years. In politics he was originally a Republican, and cast his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln. As a member of that party he cast his last presidential vote for Benjamin Harrison. Since that time he has been an earnest advocate of the principles of the Prohibition party. On the Prohibition ticket he ran as a candidate for the state senate, and polled

a heavy vote. He was also a candidate for sheriff of McLean county on the Prohibition ticket and again polled a heavy vote. He has always been true to his party, and he has always felt that he would rather be beaten in a good cause than to be successful in a bad one. In his township he served as collector a number of years, and for thirty years was a school director, and took particular pride in his home school. He always gave special attention to the employment of competent teachers, and as a consequence this one school has sent out about twenty-five pupils who have held and are now holding responsible and prominent positions. In this they owe their success to his good management of the school. His influence was always for good, and he is spoken of very highly by those who have profited by his good advice and timely help.

Mr. Conger did a general farming and stock raising business while actively engaged in farm work. One day, while following the plow, he reasoned that he could do better for himself and family by employing some one for that work, and return to his old business of buying and shipping stock, at which he had been very successful in times past. He also went into the grain trade, buying and selling on commission for two years, after which he purchased on his own account, and for twenty years was actively engaged in the business. On account of ill health he was forced to retire from active business, and has turned it over to his son, of whom mention has already been made. His first elevator being too small in which to handle his grain, in 1897 he erected a much larger one, and both are now being used. In that year he took in a partner, and the business is now being conducted under the firm name of Conger & Beier.

Their business is quite extensive, and shipments are made to all points in the United States, where good markets are found.

Mr. Conger has traveled quite extensively from coast to coast, but never feels but what he can learn much from the men with whom he is brought in contact. A Christian man, he takes his religion with him, and ever tries to live up to the principles of the golden rule. He is greatly esteemed in the community which has been his home for so many years, and both young and old trust him implicitly.

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JOHN PENDERGAST, who for twenty-three years has been section foreman on the Illinois Central railroad, and who was one of the first to locate in the village of Colfax, was born in the city of Chicago, Illinois, June 12, 1855, and when he was a small boy his parents moved to Effingham township, Effingham county, Illinois, where his boyhood and youth were spent. In the public schools of Effingham he received a good common-school education. His father, James Pendergast, was born in Ireland about 1827, and when twenty years of age set sail for the United States. He located first in Vermont, and there worked at a variety of occupations by the day and month. While residing in Vermont he married Miss Mary O'Brien, also a native of Ireland, who came to the United States in girlhood. By this marriage there were three children: John, Ella and Edward. Ella married Marion Arrington, of Fayette county, Illinois, and to them were born five children: Eugene, Harry, Nellie, Katie and Mattie, of whom Nellie died at the age of two years. Edward is in the railroad business, and married Margaret Smith, of Ivesdale, Illinois, and



they have two children: William and Marian. James Pendergast died in 1859, and for her second husband, Mrs. Pendergast married Edward Harty, by whom she had three children: Kate, William and Mary, of whom the latter died in infancy. Both Mr. and Mrs. Harty are yet living.

John Pendergast, our subject, began life for himself when he was fifteen years of age, securing employment as a common laborer with the Illinois Central railroad, and worked in that capacity for the company for five years. On account of efficient and faithful service, he was promoted to the position of section foreman, which position he has now held for more than twenty-three years. On the 26th of June, 1879, he married Miss Catherine Green, formerly of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and they have now two sons and two daughters. James W. is a graduate of the Colfax high school, and was the third child born in the corporate limits of Colfax, and was the only one of the three who graduated, all being students of the same school. Walter E. and Mary E. are students in the school from which their brother graduated. Anna Veronica died when six months old.

William Green, the father of Mrs. Pendergast, was born in Ireland in 1832, and in his native country received a very limited education. When but a small boy, he saw there was little or no opportunity for a workingman in the country of his nativity, so he decided to emigrate to the United States, which he did about 1848, when about sixteen years old. Locating in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, he learned the moulder's trade, and followed that occupation for many years. He married Eliza Mann, also of Ireland, but at the time of their marriage a resident of Philadelphia,

They became the parents of five children: Fanny, Catherine, William, Charles and Elizabeth. The family came to this state in 1865 and located in Effingham county. Mr. Green died in 1878, and Mrs. Green March 7, 1894.

Mr. and Mrs. Pendergast are highly esteemed citizens of Colfax, honest in all their dealings, and have the reputation of paying for what they contract at one hundred cents on the dollar. She is a devoted wife and mother, overseeing the secular, moral and religious interests of the family. The family are members of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic church of Colfax. In politics he is an uncompromising Democrat.

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**H**ARLEY J. WHITE, city treasurer of Bloomington, is one of the younger men of the city who have made an excellent reputation for themselves and who have reflected honor on the city of their adoption. He was born in Peoria, Illinois, May 2, 1865, and is the son of Michael B. and Sarah (Hill) White, the former born two miles north of Niagara Falls, in Ontario, Canada, January 4, 1823, where he grew to manhood and learned the trade of millwright. He later came to Illinois and located in Peoria, where he was in the employ of Gipps' brewery and distillery, as a millwright, having supervision of the repair work in their mills. While in that city, in 1863, he was united in marriage with Mrs. Sarah Reed, *née* Hill, a native of Green county, Pennsylvania, born October 18, 1826, and daughter of Thomas Hill, also a native of that state, of old German Pennsylvania stock, who there lived and died.

About three years after his marriage, Michael B. White moved his family to



Bloomington and built the mill at Shirley, which he operated about five years for himself, and then moved into the city, where he was employed as a millwright for Thomas Cox, who owned the Eagle and Union mills, keeping both mills in order. In 1885 he went to Montovisto, in San Luis valley, west of Pueblo, where he died on the last day of the World's Fair, in 1893. While in that state he was engaged in ranching, having a number of sections of land and many head of stock. His wife survived him some three years, dying in Bloomington at the home of our subject, October 12, 1896.

Harley J. White is the only living child of his parents. He was educated in the public schools of Bloomington, and later took a course in Evergreen City Business College. He worked for the means to put himself through the business college, and when he completed the course, he had to take the first job that came to hand, and he was not very particular what it was so that it would afford him the means of living. He soon attracted the attention of the public, and in 1893 was appointed health officer for the city of Bloomington, and for four years had charge of the health department of the city. During that time the city dispensed with the medical health officer, Mr. White discharging all the duties of the office in a most satisfactory manner. In 1897 he became a candidate for the office of city collector, and won out of a field of seven candidates who were contending for the office. His two years' service was such as to justify his nomination as city treasurer in the spring of 1899, and on the 18th of April, he was elected, and is now serving his first term in that office.

Mr. White was united in marriage, May

13, 1896, with Miss Emma Laudett, of Bloomington, and daughter of Charles H. Laudett, and they have now one son, Clinton H. While not members, Mr. and Mrs. White attend and help sustain the First Presbyterian church.

In politics Mr. White is a staunch Republican, and for some years has been a member of the city and county central committee of his party, and has taken a very active part in moulding public opinion. By his own efforts, and his own energy, he has made a success of life, and this while at all times working under disadvantages, having been paralyzed in one leg when an infant, which still leaves him disabled. Fraternally he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and as a citizen no man stands higher in the estimation of the general public.

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CAPTAIN HUGH NEILL, a veteran both of the Mexican and civil wars, has been a resident of Martin township since 1866. He was born in the north of Ireland November 20, 1824, and when a boy of twelve years he went with his parents to Scotland, where he received a good common-school education. His father, David Neill, was born in Scotland about 1792, and married Isabella McConnell, of a celebrated Scotch family, and a native of Scotland, and to them were born seven children—Hugh and Martha (twins), Mary Ann, John, Margaret, Jennette and David. The parents never came to the United States, but died in their native land, in 1842, the father dying ten days after the death of his wife. He was a warm friend of the celebrated Robert Emmett.

In his youth the subject of this sketch

enlisted as a common sailor, but it did not take him long to become tired of the sea, and at the first opportunity he returned home, and in 1843, when nineteen years of age, and one year after the death of his parents, he came to the United States, taking a vessel at Greenock and landing at Mobile, Alabama, later going to New Orleans, Louisiana, where he took out his first naturalization papers. In 1846 he enlisted in Company B, Third Battalion, Louisiana Volunteers, for the Mexican war, and served under Generals Taylor and Scott until the close of the war, when he was honorably discharged. He was first sergeant of his company, and while in the service discharged every duty with the utmost fidelity.

In 1849 Mr. Neill came to this state and located at Peoria, and one year later came to Bloomington, where he found employment in a lumber yard. In 1851 he married Miss Sarah Randolph, a native of Virginia, and who came with her parents to Illinois in early life, the family locating in Logan county, from where they later emigrated to Iowa. They were of Scottish descent, and trace their ancestry back to Sir William Randolph, who was a bosom friend of William Wallace, the Scottish chieftain of the fifteenth century.

To Captain and Mrs. Neill were born seven children—David, John, Mary E., William, Isabella, Alexander T. and Frances B. The oldest son, David, is conducting a barber shop in Colfax. John was a railway man, and died in 1893. Mary E. died in infancy. William died in his fifteenth year. Isabella married Elmer Powell, and they are the parents of three children, Grace, Clarence and Jessie. They now reside at Beaver Crossing, Nebraska. Alexander is an attorney at law in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

He married a lady in Missouri. Frances B. married John Barth, and they have two daughters, Jennie and Kate. Their home is in Clayton, Oklahoma.

Shortly after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Neill moved to Peoria, Illinois, where he was employed as out-door clerk for Tyng & Brotherson, who were engaged in the grain and commission business, and for ten years was in their employ. The war for the Union was now in progress, and the military spirit was once more stirred within him, and on June 26, 1861, he was mustered into the service of his adopted country, at St. Louis, Missouri, as first lieutenant of Company G, Eighth Missouri Volunteer Infantry, and, going to the front, he served under such distinguished generals as Lew Wallace, Blair, Logan, Sherman and Grant, being principally with the Army of the Tennessee. He was promoted captain for bravery in action at the battle of Fort Donelson. He was honorably discharged with the rank of captain and brevet-major August 16, 1864.

After receiving his discharge, Captain Neill returned to his home in Peoria, where he remained a few months. The war not being ended, his Scotch blood and warlike spirit would not let him rest content until those in rebellion were brought to terms and the supremacy of the general government acknowledged. Accordingly, on the 28th of February, 1865, he again entered the volunteer service of his adopted country in Company F, Second Regiment of Veteran Volunteers, and was mustered in with the rank of captain. With his company he was sent to Elmira, New York, and although the war was soon afterward ended, he was retained in the service until March 10, 1866, when he was again honorably discharged. To show the arduous service in which the

Captain was engaged, we will state that he was in the battles of Fort Donelson, Shiloh and Russell's House, the siege of Corinth, the battles of Chickasaw Bayou, and Arkansas Post, the siege of Vicksburg, the battles of Chattanooga and Mission Ridge, march to Knoxville, Tennessee, the march through Georgia, battles of East Snake Creek Gap, Resaca, Dallas, Kenesaw Mountain, and in all the battles before Atlanta.

For a third of a century Captain Neill has been a resident of Martin township, and in all the years that have passed he has added to his circle of friends. He was called upon to mourn the loss of his good wife November 16, 1893. She was a truly good woman, kind and affectionate, a worthy member of the Presbyterian church, and died in the full assurance of faith. The Captain is also a member of the Presbyterian church at Colfax, and is one of its elders. Fraternally he is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. Although of foreign birth his love for his adopted country has been attested by about seven years of faithful service in defense of the old flag.

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**F**REDERICK CHARLES MUHL. This well known resident of Bloomington is one of our leading German-born citizens, and in his successful business career he has shown the characteristic thrift and enterprise of his race. Beginning with no capital except that acquired by his own industry he has built up a large business as a contractor and manufacturer of cornice, and is to-day one of the prosperous citizens of Bloomington.

Mr. Muhl was born on the 25th of November, 1846, in Thilbeer, Creisosterburg,

Madgeburg, Province of Saxony, Prussia, which was the ancestral home of the family. His mother died in that country, after which the father, Christopher Muhl, married again, and with his second wife and seven children emigrated to America in 1862. They arrived in Bloomington, Illinois, on the 10th of October of that year, and here the father followed his trade of cabinet making until his death. In his native land he was a member of the Lutheran church, but here united with the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he remained a consistent member.

Frederick C. Muhl obtained a fair education in his native tongue before leaving Europe, but had no knowledge of English on his arrival in this country, and it has been entirely through his own efforts that he had become familiar with the language. While learning to speak English he was variously employed, and then served an apprenticeship with Harwood Brothers in tin roofing and cornice making, after which he worked as a journeyman with them until about twenty years ago, when he opened a shop and started in business on his own account. From the start he has met with success and his trade has constantly increased. He manufactures cornice, and has done a large amount of slate roofing besides other kinds, being the oldest contractor in that line in the city. He has worked on many of the best buildings in Bloomington, including the Coliseum, the new market, and Chisholm Flats, and during the busy season gives employment to from ten to twelve men. He has purchased property at 212, 214 and 216 South Centre street, which he has erected what is now known as the Muhl block, with store rooms below and flats above, and as the lots are very deep he has built his shop in the rear.



Mr. Muhl was united in marriage May 10, 1871, with Miss Johanna Musch, also a native of Prussia, and to them have been born seven children, namely: Lena, now the wife of Samuel Waugh; Carl, who is with his father in business; Gertie; Albert, died at the age of four years; Fred; Oscar and Julia. Both Mr. and Mrs. Muhl are leading members of the German Methodist Episcopal church, with which he united in 1863 when quite young, and he is considered one of the pillars of the church, filling the pulpit at times in the absence of the regular minister. He has always taken an active part in church work, was a member of the building committee on the erection of the house of worship, and is now serving as trustee of the same and as superintendent of the Sabbath-school. He is a Republican, but takes no active part in political affairs aside from voting. His devotion to the public good, however, is unquestioned, and arises from a sincere interest in the welfare of his fellow men.

**J**OHAN HAWTHORN, who is now living a retired life in the village of Colfax, was for many years one of the most active and enterprising farmers in McLean county, one who toiled early and late with the result that prosperity attended him in all his efforts. He is a native of Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, and was born March 26, 1816. His father, James Hawthorn, was also born in Pennsylvania, and there married Nancy Clark, likewise a native of the same state, and to them were born eleven children.

In his native state John Hawthorn grew to manhood, receiving in the schools of that early day a very limited education. At a

very tender age he worked out, receiving for his first labor one dollar per month, together with his board. He was not long required to work for such a small sum, his industrious habits and evident desire to please his employers making a valuable hand, and his services were therefore in demand. For some years he worked on various farms by the month, becoming thus familiar with all kinds of farm labor, and which stood him in good turn in after years.

On the 20th of May, 1841, Mr. Hawthorn was united in marriage with Miss Eliza Morias, a native of Pennsylvania, but of Holland descent. Nine children came to bless their union—Mary J., George W., John M., Eliza E., James R., Margaret R., Henry C., David A. and Thomas W. Since the death of her mother in 1885, Mary J. has been the faithful manager and housekeeper for her father. George W. married Mary C. Crumbaker, and they have seven children, John E., Arza D., Effie J., Pearl, Bessie M., Roy O. and M. Rebecca. They reside in Lawndale township. John M. is a stock man in Nebraska. Eliza E. married Emil Graff, but died the same year of her marriage. James H. married Sarilda Smith, and they have seven children, Daisy, Nelly D., Elsie J., Everett, Essel, Estella and an infant. They reside in Iowa. Margaret A. married Richard Crumbaker, and they have one daughter living, Dora J. Their home is in Lawndale township. Henry C. married Eva Warner, and they have three sons; they reside in Iowa. David A. married Jennie Billingsby, and to them were born two children, Zena and Bonnie. Their home is in Missouri. Thomas W. married Clara Wiley, and they have four children, they live in Iowa. The mother of these children was called to her





JOHN HAWTHORN.

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reward November 29, 1885, leaving a large family and numerous friends to mourn her loss. She was a good mother, a loving wife, and a true helpmeet to her husband, aiding him greatly in his prosperous career.

Six years after his marriage, Mr. Hawthorn moved with his family to Ohio, making the journey in a one-horse covered wagon. They remained in that state four years and then came to Illinois, locating in Peoria county, which was their home until the fall of 1853, when they became permanknt residents of McLean county, locating in Lawn-dale township, where Mr. Hawthorn purchased eighty acres of government land, paying one hundred dollars for the same. This land joined that of William Henline, who had provided for his father and mother in their old age, by the erection on the place of a comfortable log cabin. The parents had recently passed over "on the other side," and Mr. Hawthorn purchased the log house for ten dollars, and through the assistance of kind neighbors moved it to his eighty acres as a place of abode for his growing family.

Not a furrow had been turned on the place when purchased by Mr. Hawthorn, and with that characteristic industry that has followed him through life, he went to work to till the soil and otherwise improve the farm. While with his family he had to endure the toils and privations of pioneer life, he has the proud satisfaction of feeling that in the end "all is well." About every two years he added to the area of his possessions, until he had seven hundred acres in the vicinity of his first home, and in Nebraska he has entered up one hundred and sixty acres for each of his sons. He also owns land in Kansas and Iowa, and now has about seventeen hundred acres. He has

been a successful man, but sobriety, industry and integrity will always win.

The first presidential vote cast by Mr. Hawthorn was for William Henry Harrison in the celebrated campaign of 1840, when the cry of the Whigs was "Tippecanoe and Tyler, too," with log cabins and hard cider as an accompaniment. Such a stir was never before known. He continued to vote with the Whig party as long as it was in existence, and on the birth of the Republican party he cast his lot with it, and has since been an enthusiastic supporter of that party.

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**H**ORACE OLYNTHUS HEDGE, editor and proprietor of the Chenoa Gazette, has had a remarkably eventful career. His parents were prominent residents of Windsor, Vermont, where his father, Lemuel Hedge, was engaged in printing and publishing, and in mechanical pursuits. He commenced the publication of the Vermont Journal, and for a time was sole proprietor. The firm of Hedge & Merrifield, of which he was the senior member, published the first quarto illustrated Bible in the United States. From Windsor his parents removed to Middletown, Connecticut, where Horace was born June 2, 1822. The family soon afterwards returned to Vermont, settling in Brattleboro, and in the schools of that city Horace fitted himself for college. Entering Trinity College, at Hartford, Connecticut, he pursued the regular course and graduated with honors. He was educated for the ministry, but preferring a mercantile life, he went to the city of New York, where he found employment as bookkeeper with the firm of Bramhall, Abernethy & Collins, a large importing and wholesale dry-goods

house. He was later offered and accepted a more lucrative position as bookkeeper in John Ryle's large silk factory at Paterson, New Jersey, which he resigned to accept a still better position with Benjamin Brundred & Son, manufacturers of cotton machinery for the Rubios, of Mexico. He spent a year or more in Mexico, looking after the interests of the firm there, during which time he became an adept in the Spanish language.

After his return to the United States, Mr. Hedge went to New York city as bookkeeper for John Campbell & Co., large paper manufacturers and dealers. While in that city he became personally and intimately acquainted with the eminent editors of that day—Horace Greeley, Henry J. Raymond, Charles A. Dana and James Gordon Bennett—together with many authors, publishers, musical celebrities, writers, and other prominent persons. The confinement in the establishment of Campbell & Co. was too much for him, and he resigned his position and returned to Paterson, New Jersey, where, in 1845, he was united in marriage with Miss Margaret Colt Smith, a relative of the Colts, Penningtons and Hornblowers, and soon after his marriage was appointed agent and accountant for the Erie railway, and remained in the service of that road over twenty years. While residing in Paterson, he was organist in the Presbyterian and Baptist churches for several years, and was prominent in Masonic circles, in the lodge, council, chapter and commandery. He was elected the first city clerk of Paterson, and was the first comptroller, and he was also a member of the local and state boards of education several terms.

At the breaking out of the civil war, Mr. Hedge received a commission from

President Lincoln in the secret service of the United States, and was engaged in many hazardous and dangerous missions during the war. He was also special war correspondent for the New York Tribune, Times, Sun and Herald. At the close of the war he came west to Chicago, and took charge of the organ department of Lyon & Healy, introducing the famous Burdette organ, and while with them traveled extensively. In 1871 he went to Marseilles, Illinois, as manager of Brown & Norton's paper manufactory, and while there started and published the Marseilles Register. In 1874 his wife died, and in May, 1876, he went to Minonk and started the Minonk Times, now the News. In August, of that year, he married Miss Mary H. Waite, at Marseilles. While residing in Minonk he was organist in the Presbyterian church, and was elected city clerk several times.

In 1883 Mr. Hedge came to Chenoa and purchased the Chenoa Gazette and job printing establishment, and has since continued the publication of the paper. In April, 1889, his office was destroyed by fire, and he lost everything. Nothing daunted, he went to Chicago, purchased new material and issued the Gazette on the regular publication day. In 1891 he assigned to his son an interest in the paper, and it was published by Hedge & Son. This relation continued but about one year, the son, Joseph, dying in 1892.

Since taking up his residence in Chenoa, Mr. Hedge has been elected and served as city clerk two or three terms, refusing higher offices, and has always enjoyed the confidence and esteem of the people. He is a fine Latin scholar and a fine musician, as well as an excellent journalist and poet. Under the *nom de plume* of "Olynthus"



and "H. O. H." he has contributed some poems of rare merit. He has also written some songs and music which have had a wide sale.

Mr. Hedge has been an extensive traveler through this country and in Mexico, and has a large acquaintance among eminent men, especially among authors, musicians and statesmen. He was at one time quite wealthy, but has been unfortunate, losing heavily in the early days of the oil development in Pennsylvania, and in the great Chicago fire. He has three married daughters by his first wife, who are living in Chicago, and one daughter by his second wife, who is attending college in Minneapolis.

On the 12th of March, 1899, Mr. Hedge experienced another great loss, by the destruction of his office by fire, the entire contents being burned, including his books and accounts, together with his subscription lists. As in the first instance of the loss of his office, he lost no time in procuring another outfit, and the publication of the Chenoa Gazette is still continued. Such pluck is indeed commendable and unusual at his age.

**I**SAAC CONKLIN, a farmer and stock raiser, residing on section 1, Martin township, and who for twenty years has been agent for the Phoenix Insurance Company, of Brooklyn, New York, was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, March 24, 1831, and there grew to manhood, being reared on a farm and receiving his education in the common schools. His father, William Conklin, was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, March 17, 1809, and when but two years of age was taken by his par-

ents to Muskingum county, Ohio, where his boyhood and youth were spent. He was educated in the pioneer schools of Ohio and was reared to the honorable occupation of farming. On the 18th of March, 1830, he married Miss Bedelia McKernan, and they became the parents of twelve children—Isaac, John, Austin (who died in infancy), Elmira, James H., M. Catherine, Peter M., William (who died in infancy), Amanda, Joseph, Amelia and Shelby. In 1886, William Conklin departed this life, and his wife, who was born in 1812, died in 1882. John Conklin, the paternal grandfather of our subject, was born in Maryland. He married Mary Spencer, of Washington county, Pennsylvania, and to them were born eight children. The grandfather died about 1859, and the grandmother about 1880.

Isaac Conklin was reared on his father's farm in Muskingum county, Ohio, and received a common-school education. In his twentieth year he began to learn the carpenter's trade, which he followed for eleven years. On the 9th of May, 1860, he married Miss Susan Worrell, second daughter of Henry and Harriet (Switzer) Worrell, who came from Baltimore, Maryland, to Fulton county, Illinois. Henry Worrell was born in Baltimore, Maryland, June 10, 1800. He received a limited common-school education, and in his youth learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed for a time, but latter engaged in farming. He married Harriet Switzer, also a native of Baltimore, Maryland, and to them were born eight children—Jesse, Rachel, Susan, Nellie, Jane, Mary, Julia and Harriet. The family came to Illinois in 1836, and located in Canton, Fulton county. They started from their home in Maryland with a one-horse covered wagon, but when they came

to cross the mountains they found that one horse was not sufficient to draw the load, so that Mr. Worrell was forced to buy another horse, and placing him in front of the other drove them tandem the remainder of the journey. Mr. Worrell died in 1851 and his wife in 1853.

Six children came to bless the union of Isaac Conkling and Susan Worrell, three sons and three daughters. One son died in infancy. The others are Charles R., C. Belle, Emma J., Annie E. and William A. Charles R. is engaged in farming near Kankakee, Illinois. C. Belle married Asbury Howard, and they have three children, Bertha, Gersert and Susie. They reside in Peoria, where Mr. Howard, who is a skillful carriage and sign painter, is engaged in business. Emma J. married William Nickerson, a farmer of Lawndale township. Annie E. married George Baird, and they have three children, Mabel, Louise and Tiny. They reside in Peoria, where Mr. Baird is engaged in contracting. By trade he is a carpenter. William A., who is a farmer near Peoria, married Dolly Atkins, a native of Sperryville, West Virginia, but who was living in Colfax at the time of her marriage, and they have one daughter, Nadene.

Mr. Conklin came to Bloomington in 1856, and worked at his trade until 1861, and then for four years rented land in Lawndale township. In 1864 he purchased his present farm of two hundred and forty acres, eighty acres of which are in Martin township, and one hundred and sixty acres in Lawndale township. In addition to the home farm, he has an interest with his son in one hundred and sixty acres near Kankakee, Illinois. Since coming to Illinois he has been quite successful, and is now well

and comfortably fixed, his farm and buildings showing the industry and good taste of its owner. In politics he is a Free Silver Democrat, and in his religious views he is a Methodist, being a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Colfax. His wife and children are members of the Christian church in the same place. All are highly esteemed in the community.

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**HILWERT WILLIAM HARMS** is the owner of a valuable farm of one hundred and ninety acres, in Yates township, improved with all modern improvements and accessories, and his name is found on the roll of McLean county's leading agriculturists. He was born in Peoria county, Illinois, November 8, 1852, and is a son of Henry H. Harms, who was born in East Friesland, in the kingdom of Hanover, Germany, May 25, 1822. The father was a farmer and weaver, and in July, 1851, crossed the Atlantic to America. He at once made his way to Peoria where he arrived with only one dollar in his pocket and that sum he paid for being ferried across the river, the bridge having been washed out. Ere leaving his native land he married Joanna Hilwert Saathoff, who was born in Hanover, August 27, 1822. On reaching Peoria, they both secured employment until they could get a start in the new world. After eight years the father rented a farm in Woodford county and five years later he purchased a quarter-section which he had leased. All of the improvements upon the place were made by him and the farm became a valuable property. He erected good buildings, laid many rods of tiling and developed rich and fertile fields. In 1875 he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of

land at forty dollars per acre and thereon conducted a successful business until 1880, when he rented his farm to his son. After the death of his wife in 1881 he went to live with his children. In the family were eight sons and daughters, but one of the number died in infancy. Harm W. Harms is a farmer residing near Panola and married Hiskie P. Johnson, by whom he has twelve children, four now deceased. The living are Henry H., Peter, Janna, John, Harm, Gracie, Annie and Bertha. Hilwert is the next of the family. Annie H. is the wife of Dirk Myer, who is engaged in the wholesale and retail hardware business in Peoria and in the manufacture of Weir furnaces. They have six children, of whom five are living, Senna, Joanna, Albert, Henry and Frank. Mary is the wife of Frank Rewerts, a farmer residing near Benson, Illinois, and of their nine children seven are living, namely: Etta, Henry, Janna, Willie, Amanda, John and August. Janna is the wife of John Williams, who follows farming near Rochelle, Illinois, and their children are Hannah, Etta, Henry, Senna and John. Fannie Amanda is the wife of George Williams, proprietor of a grocery and feed store in Peoria, and they have three children, Clara, Flora and Mary.

Mr. Harms, of this review, acquired his education in the district schools and the public schools of Kreuger. He remained at home until twenty years of age and then entered upon an independent business career by renting land of his father. This he operated very successfully and also followed threshing for eight years, using horse power. His first purchase of land consisted of eighty acres, for which he paid twenty dollars per acre. This was situated in Livingston county and came into his possession in 1880.

He afterward added to it a tract of ten acres, for which he paid eighteen dollars per acre, making his home thereon for six years, when he bought one hundred and seventeen acres for thirty-four dollars and twenty cents per acre. One-half of it was prairie and the other covered with brush, but he cleared it all, made some excellent improvements upon it and in 1889 sold it for forty-two dollars and a half per acre. He then purchased his present farm of one hundred and ninety acres, paying fifty dollars per acre for a quarter-section and fifty-two dollars per acre for the remainder. It is now under a very high state of cultivation and he also successfully engages in raising Normanshire and English draft horses. He has upon the place fine orchards, a commodious and handsome residence and one of the best barns in the township, and all the improvements upon the place stand as monuments to his thrift and enterprise.

On the 16th of January, 1877, Mr. Harms married Miss Geske, daughter of Heika and Gertrude (Neeman) Kuhlman. She was born near Eureka, in Woodford county, Illinois, January 16, 1857, and her parents were natives of Hanover, Germany, whence they came to America the year following the emigration of Mr. Harms' parents. They had a family of seven children, namely: Senna is the wife of Maine Harms, of Nebraska, and their children are Carrie, Heika, Mannan, Geska, Gertrude, John and Sene. Geske is the wife of our subject. George Kuhlman is now deceased. He married Lena Baum, and both are now deceased. Their children, Gertrude, Caroline, Senna, Katie and Clara, reside in Secor, Illinois. Reina is the deceased wife of J. Tholen, who resides in Peoria, Illinois. Their children are Maggie, Henry, Heika,



Katie and George. Melchert is a farmer, and is living in Wing, Illinois. He has two children, John and Heika. Lena is living with her relatives. Elizabeth is the wife of William Ludwig, of Secor, Illinois.

Mr. and Mrs. Harms are the parents of six children, but one died in infancy. The others, Janna, Henry H., Heika, George and Annie, are still at home. The parents are faithful members of the German Lutheran church, in which Mr. Harms is serving as trustee, while in the Sunday-school he has also been an officer. In politics, he is independent, supporting the men whom he thinks best qualified for office. He has served as school director for six years and has also been pathmaster, discharging his duties in a prompt and able manner. His life has been one of great industry, and he deserves much credit for his success, as it has come to him as the result of earnest purpose and untiring labor.

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CHARLES E. THOMPSON, who resides on section 3, Mt. Hope township, is an example of what may be attained by the youth of this land, even though they commence life without means or influential friends to aid them on the road to prosperity. He was born in Morgan county, Ohio, November 1, 1845, and there grew to manhood, receiving his education in the common schools. His father, John H. Thompson, was a native of Loudon county, Virginia, born March 17, 1813, and was there reared to man's estate and there married Miss Nancy Tavaner, also a native of Virginia. Soon after their marriage they moved to Ohio, making their home in Morgan county, where he purchased a tract of timber land, cleared it, and opened up a

farm. They were among the early settlers of that locality. Later they sold their Ohio farm and moved to Wayne county, Iowa, where he again engaged in farming and spent the last years of his life, dying April 11, 1898. He was twice married, and by his first wife there were six children that grew to maturity. She died in 1853. By his second wife there were five children that lived to mature years, and all are yet living.

The subject of this sketch is the son of John H. and Nancy (Tavaner) Thompson. He remained with his father until of age, and in 1868 came to McLean county, where an uncle and cousin were then living. On his arrival he went to work on a farm by the month for C. T. McCarty, of Funks Grove township, with whom he continued three years. He then rented a farm and for two years engaged in its cultivation. On the 22d of February, 1876, he was united in marriage, in Funks Grove township, with Miss Clara Smith, a native of Ohio, but who was reared and educated in this county. She is a daughter of W. L. Smith, a native of Ohio, and a sister of Charles E. Smith, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. By this union there are two children, Ira Bliss and Ora Pearl, both at home.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Thompson moved to a farm in Funks Grove township, which he rented and on which they lived for some years. He then purchased a farm of one hundred acres in Funks Grove township, but near the village of McLean, and there resided for nine years, during which time he made a number of valuable improvements on the place. Selling the farm at a nice advance on the purchase price, in 1891 he purchased the



farm where they now reside, and which consists of one hundred and sixty-five acres of well improved land, with good residence, barns and other outbuildings, all of which are kept in excellent repair.

In connection with his farming, Mr. Thompson has been engaged in stock raising, and in buying and dealing in horses. Thirty-one years ago he came to McLean county a poor young man, but he had pluck and a determination to succeed, and the result of his years of toil is now shown in his well tilled fields, the good stock upon his place, and other evidences that goes to show the industrious man, who is not willing to lag behind in the race of life, but always keeps in the front, and who never knows of the word fail. Politically he is a true blue Republican, and since attaining his majority has supported the men and measures of the Republican party. For some years he has served on the school board, and for about eight years as clerk of the school district. The entire family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church of McLean, in which he is serving as steward. Fraternally he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. All are held in the highest esteem.

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ALEXANDER E. STUMP, who for nearly half a century has been one of the popular mechanics of the city of Bloomington, has many friends scattered throughout the county, and is a worthy representative of his trade. He was born near Germantown, Perry county, Pennsylvania, October 29, 1831, and is the son of John and Margaret (Snyder) Stump, of an old Pennsylvania family. The father owned and run a sawmill, in his native state, and

was killed when our subject was but five years old.

In his native state, Alexander E. Stump grew to manhood and was educated in the common schools. In his youth he learned the blacksmith trade, which he has followed during his entire life. The great state of Illinois had for some years been attracting the young men of the east, and like many others he determined to here seek a home, with the hope of doing better than in the crowded east. In 1855 he came to McLean county and located in Bloomington and for two years worked in the shop of John R. Smith. He then opened a shop for himself on the corner of Madison and Front streets and soon built up a good business. Later he went into partnership with a Mr. Hayes, and the two did nearly all the business of the town in those days. In 1860 he bought a lot at No. 213 East Front street, one of the most valuable lots in the city and opened his shop alone, and soon was doing an excellent business, making a specialty of horse shoeing. His business was such that he gave employment to a good many men, and that business has kept up until the present time, and with one exception he is the oldest man in his line of business.

On the 2d day of February, 1860, Mr. Stump was united in marriage with Miss Aurora E. Larner, a daughter of G. Larner, an old justice of the peace, of Bloomington, and one of the pioneers of the city. She was born November 1, 1834, in McConnorsville, Morgan county, Ohio. By this union there are two children, the eldest, Larner A., being engaged with his father in business. He married Miss Carrie Wilson, and they have one daughter, Edith. Their eldest child, Jessie, married Dudley

Creed, and they have one daughter, Lucy. The good wife of our subject died October 3, 1894, and her death was sincerely mourned not only by her family, but by a large circle of friends. She was a member of the Unitarian church, of which Mr. Stump is also a member.

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**J**OHN T. BUCK, one of the active and enterprising farmers of McLean county, has a valuable and well improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 10, Funk's Grove township, about six miles from the village of Heyworth. On that farm he has resided since 1889, at which time he made his first purchase of eighty acres, to which he has since added eighty more acres. The farm is well improved and is kept under a high state of cultivation. He is a native of DeWitt county and was born March 10, 1855. His father, Melvertis Buck, was born in Ohio in 1830, and came to this state in his early manhood, locating first in Pekin, Tazewell county. Some time later, with a land warrant, he took up one hundred and sixty acres of land in Rutledge township, DeWitt county, and there resided some years. Disposing of that tract, he later purchased one hundred and thirty-three acres near Waynesville, in the same county. He married Miss Nancy Leeper, a native of Illinois, and they became the parents of three children, of whom our subject is the oldest. Mary Ann is the wife of Dan Stephens, a substantial farmer of McLean county. Sherman is living on the old homestead in DeWitt county. The father, who was a successful farmer, died February 24, 1892. His wife survives him and resides on the old farm in DeWitt county.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood on the old farm, which was located within two and a half miles of Waynesville, DeWitt county, and was educated in the common school. He remained with his parents until 1881, when he began farming for himself on section 12, Funk's Grove township, commencing with forty acres, which he at that time purchased. On that tract he lived nine years, in the meantime improving it, and renting and cultivating other land. Selling at a nice advance, he bought eighty acres of his present farm, to which he removed, and to which he later added eighty acres adjoining. Here he has since lived, year by year making additional improvements on the place, in one year putting up his residence, another building a barn, then by planting an orchard, setting out shade and ornamental trees, until today the place presents a neat and tasty appearance, and shows that it is managed by one who thoroughly understands his business. In connection with his farming, he has since 1893 been operating a steam thresher, purchasing one at that time, which he later sold, and purchased another, a new and improved one. He also owns and operates a corn sheller, and with the aid of the thresher and sheller he adds materially to his income each year, at the same time being of great assistance to his neighbors, who depend on him to thresh their grain and shell their corn.

Mr. Buck was married in McLean county in 1878, to Miss Nancy Beard, who was born and reared near the village of McLean, and daughter of William Beard, formerly from Ohio.

Politically Mr. Buck is a staunch Republican, and in local politics he has been quite active. In 1894 he was elected commis-

sioner of highways, and was re-elected in 1897, and is now serving his second term, making a very satisfactory official. For about ten years he served as school director for his district, and conscientiously discharged the duties of that office. Fraternally he is a member of Waynesville Lodge, I. O. O. F., and passed through all the chairs, and is now past grand of the lodge.

Like thousands of others he commenced life with but little means, but through industry and good management, assisted by the help of his good wife, he has now a well improved farm, and is numbered among the most progressive farmers in the township and county, and one worthy of the respect in which he is held.

dren, William and Dora; Daniel S. married a Miss Roberts, and himself, wife and child are all now deceased; Benjamin F. married Annie Graves, of Vermont, and they had five children, Oscar, Franklin, Maude, Myrtle and Minnie; Sarah died at the age of seven years; Ellen married Benjamin Burnett, of McLean county, and they had one daughter, Minnie, wife of William McClure, formerly of the north of Ireland, by whom she has one son, Sidney; Molly married Harry Knipple, of Pennsylvania, now deceased by whom she has three children, Charles, Maude and Ray, and she now resides in Chicago, Illinois; John died at the age of four years; Belle married Nin Hand, of southern Illinois; Hattie died in infancy; Oscar married Sadie Henley, of Bloomington, by whom he had one daughter, Pearl, and he died December 5, 1893; and Charles died at the age of two years.

On coming to Illinois in 1855, Mr. Barnes first located in Twin Grove, but has made his home in Martin township, McLean county, since 1868. During his residence in this state he has devoted the greater part of his time and attention to agricultural pursuits, and has met with well-deserved success in his labors, being a thorough and systematic farmer and a business man of more than ordinary ability. He laid aside all personal interests, August 8, 1862, and joined the boys in blue as a member of Company A, Ninety-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He participated in the battle of Prairie Grove, Arkansas, and the capture of Van Buren, that state; took part in the siege and capture of Vicksburg, Mississippi, and Fort Morgan, Alabama; the capture of Spanish Fort; and was in numerous skirmishes. He received a flesh wound in the left leg near Rolla, Missouri, and at

**J**OSHUA BARNES, an old and honored resident of Martin township, McLean county, whose home is on section 25, was born in Pennsylvania, May 9, 1827, and after completing his education in the public schools of his native state, worked at the potter's trade there. On the 20th of January, 1847, he was united in marriage with Miss Isabella Trent, of Pennsylvania, a daughter of James and Mary (Smith) Trent, also natives of that state, the former born in 1800. Her father died in 1863, and her mother soon afterward. In their family were eight children, namely: Mary, deceased; Isabella, wife of our subject; Peggy; John; Sarah; Elias; Lizzie and James.

Mr. and Mrs. Barnes have become the parents of eleven children, five sons and six daughters, and of these five were born in Pennsylvania and the remainder in Illinois. In order of birth they are as follows: Belinda married Franklin McKee, a machinist of Bloomington, and they have two chil-



the close of the war was honorably discharged at Galveston, Texas, July 17, 1865, and returned to his home with a war record of which he may be justly proud. In his political affiliations he is a thorough Republican, and he takes a deep and commendable interest in all enterprises calculated to advance the interests of his county, state or nation. He is widely and favorably known and has made hosts of friends during his residence in McLean county. His estimable wife is a member of the United Brethren church.

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**W**ILLIAMSON P. MINTER, president of the Minter Manufacturing Company, Bloomington, has been one of the active manufacturers and business men of the city for more than forty years. He was born in Kentucky, July 10, 1832, and at the age of three months was left fatherless, his mother soon afterwards moving to the home of Gabriel Minter, her late husband's father. She later married a Mr. Nelson, and is yet living in Kentucky at the age of eighty-eight years. She has made her home in the same place for fifty-seven years. Gabriel Minter was a practicing physician, and was one of the pioneer doctors of the vicinity in which he lived, moving there from Virginia. He was a well-to-do man, and was the owner of a large farm, which he carried on in addition to his practice.

When our subject was but eight years old he was sent as an apprentice to Madison county, Kentucky, to learn a trade, the term of his apprenticeship being until he was twenty-one years old. He first learned wool-carding, and then the manufacture of wool-carding machinery, cabinet and undertaking work, blacksmithing and carpenter-

ing. For his thirteen years' work he was to receive his board, clothing, six months schooling, and at the expiration of his term of service, a broadcloth suit of clothes or one hundred dollars in cash. He wisely chose the latter, and with this sum he went to Garrett county, in the same state, and for two years was in charge of a wool-carding establishment as foreman. He then came to Bloomington, and for a time was an employe in a cabinet shop, but later started a cabinet shop of his own on Washington street. His salesroom was on Washington street and his shop being where the Big Four depot stands. He built up an excellent trade, but the second year after his establishment in business the mill burnt and he lost all that he had, and was thus compelled to temporarily abandon business. Securing a situation with the Chicago & Alton Railroad, he run an engine on that line for two years. He then commenced contracting as a carpenter, continuing in that line until the outbreak of the civil war. Notwithstanding he was of southern birth, he was loyal to the core, and enlisted in Company C, Thirty-third Illinois Volunteer Infantry, for three years, and with his regiment went to the front, his service being in Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana. The Thirty-third was a fighting regiment, and he was with it in all the principal engagements during its term of service. At the expiration of his term, he was sent from Louisiana, by way of New Orleans, on a boat to Cairo, Illinois, thence by rail to Springfield, where he was mustered out of service, having but twice received a furlough in three years.

On returning to his home in Bloomington Mr. Minter commenced work as a journeyman for Mr. Randolph, a contractor and



builder, with whom he continued until 1866, when he resumed contracting for himself. From 1866 to 1877 he was actively engaged in building, and many of the best buildings erected during that time were under his supervision.

For about fifteen years Mr. Minter was a member of the old volunteer fire department of Bloomington, serving with Company No. 1, and much of the time being president of the company. In 1871 his left hand was badly injured in the discharge of his duties as a member of the company, and for four years he could not use the hand. He then commenced work turning for a chair factory, and did all their work in that line for six years. The factory suspending operations he went into the grocery business for himself, his establishment being on South Lee street, corner of Wood, and continued in that line for three years. He then commenced running a planing mill, furnishing material for finishing of houses. His first mill was on the corner of Market and East streets, but outgrowing the capacity of the mill at that location he bought a lot on the corner of Grove and McClun streets, and in 1890 built his present commodious factory, and has since done an increasing business. The firm, which is composed of Mr. Minter and his son, Edward F., who was admitted into partnership when he was twenty-one years old, is doing a very large and most satisfactory business, supplying much of the inside finishing for dwellings and stores being erected in Bloomington and vicinity.

Mr. Minter was married in 1855 to Miss Elizabeth Christman, of Kentucky, and they have had five children, of whom only one is now living, Edward F., who was born in Bloomington, March 8, 1869. He married

Miss Minnie May Hibbs, of El Paso, Illinois, and they have had three children, the first born, Ralph E., being deceased. The living are: Leona Belle and Iva Grace. The home of Mr. Minter is located at No. 506 South McClun street, where they show the true Kentucky hospitality, which is proverbial. While not a member, Mr. Minter, with his wife, attend the Methodist Episcopal church and contribute to its support. Fraternally he is a member of W. T. Sherman Post, G. A. R., of Bloomington.

The reader of this sketch will observe that it has not all been smooth sailing with our subject. He has had much to discourage him, but his life shows a perseverance that brings success, and few there are that will envy him for what he has, as those who know him are aware that all comes from his own industry and thrift. The esteem in which he is held by the people of McLean county is well merited.

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**J** NELSON ROSE, an honored veteran of the civil war and one of the representative farmers of McLean county, has for the past nine years been prominently identified with the agricultural interest of Martin township, his home being on section 36. He is a native of Illinois, born in Clark county, January 31, 1842, and is a son of Ira B. Rose, whose birth occurred in New York state, in 1805, and whose education was obtained in the common schools that prevailed in that early day. By occupation the father was a carpenter and joiner. When a young man he emigrated to Clark county, Illinois, and there married Miss Julia Martin. Her family were early settlers of much prominence in Martinsville, which was named in their honor, and her

father platted the village. Mrs. Rose died in 1871 and her husband ten years later. In their family were seven children, four sons and three daughters, namely: Martha J., J. Nelson, Henry, Diedema, Daniel, David and Emeline P. The family is of English and Scotch decent.

Mr. Rose, of this sketch, attended the common schools of his native county and early in life became thoroughly familiar with every department of farming, which vocation he has made his life work. In 1864, during the dark days of the civil war, he entered the service of his country, enlisting in Company I, Thirtieth Illinois Infantry. In March, 1865, he was made a prisoner of war and for eighteen days was incarcerated in Libby prison, Richmond, Virginia, at the end of which time he was paroled. At the close of the war, when his service no longer needed he was honorably discharged and returned home to resume the more quiet pursuits of farm life.

On the 28th of December, 1876, Mr. Rose was united in marriage with Miss Drewey A. Tudor, of McLean county, formerly of Kentucky, who died February 15, 1895, mourned by all who knew her. Five children born of this union are still living, namely: Lillie B., wife of Charles Steiger, of Cheney Grove township; Ira T.; Grace V., who has taken charge of the household affairs since her mother's death; Mollie M.; and Guy H.

Mr. Rose is an active and prominent member of the United Brethren church of Plymouth, and is now serving as one of its trustees. In his political views he is a pronounced Republican, and he has held the office of school director for several terms, but has always declined to accept other official positions that have been offered him,

preferring to give his undivided attention to his own interests. Through thrift, sobriety and integrity he has succeeded in accumulating a comfortable competence and receives and merits the confidence and respect of his fellow citizens.

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JOSEPH INGRAM, an enterprising and prosperous agriculturist and a highly respected citizen of Martin township, living on section 29, was born in Upper Canada, June 2, 1848, and is of Scotch descent. The father and mother of John Ingram were born in Toronto, Scotland, in 1819, and he obtained his education in the schools of his native land. Throughout life he followed the occupation of farming. In 1841 he was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Patterson, of his native land, and their wedding journey was a voyage to the new world. They first located in Upper Canada, but in 1853 came to the United States, and after residing in Ohio less than a year they came to Illinois in 1854, with a team and covered wagon, locating in Bloomington, near the Illinois Central railroad station. For three weeks they lived in the covered wagon and then removed to a log cabin in Harley's Grove, four miles southwest of what is now known as the city of Bloomington. In 1855 they took up their residence in Blooming Grove, and the following year located on the John Stanford farm, south of the city. Their last days were spent in Canton, Kansas, where the father died August 1, 1888, the mother March 1, 1895. To this worthy couple were born eleven children, six sons and five daughters, namely: John A., Margaret, Agnes, Joseph, May, James, Alexander, George, Maria, William and Sally.

In this county Joseph Ingram grew to manhood and throughout his active business life has engaged in farming here, meeting with varied success in his labors. During the dark days of the Rebellion when the nation was in peril, he valiantly offered his services to the government, enlisting July 3, 1861, in Company A, First Illinois Volunteer Cavalry. In the battle of Lexington he was wounded on the back and neck by a blow from the stock of a shotgun in the hands of a rebel soldier and was taken prisoner. He was finally paroled and discharged in October, 1861, but re-enlisted, August 16, 1864, in Company E, Ninety-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. His brother John was a member of the same company and regiment, and they were honorably discharged August 16, 1866, after three years of faithful and arduous service.

On the 19th of November, 1867, Mr. Ingram led to the marriage altar Miss Frances Hargitt, a native of Yorkshire, England. Her father, Thomas Hargitt, was born in Enswood, England, in 1824, was educated in the schools of that country, and there worked at the tailor's trade and engaged in business as a book dealer, but on this side of the Atlantic he followed the occupation of farming. He married Miss Eliza Nice, of Land's End, England, and to them were born five children who are still living, namely: Charles F., Frances E., Lewis A., Alfred A. and Emma N. In 1855 the family emigrated to America and for ten years made their home in Canada, but in 1865 came to the United States and settled in Anchor township, McLean county, Illinois. Mr. Hargitt died November 7, 1894, and his wife passed away January 2, 1897.

Of the five children born to Mr. and Mrs. Ingram, Arthur L. died in infancy.

Frederick N., a farmer of Martin township, married Alice Horner, and they have two children: G. Blanche and Walter L. Alma died in infancy. Frank O. C., also a farmer of Martin township, married Grace Hepner, of the same place. Grace M. S. is now the wife of Donald Russell, of Cooksville, Blue Mound township, McLean county. The family are members of the Christian church and occupy an enviable position in the best social circles of the communities in which they reside. Fraternally Mr. Ingram is an honored member of McPherson Post, G. A. R., of Bloomington. His political support is always given the men and measures of the Republican party, and he has most creditably and acceptably filled the offices of road commissioner eleven years and school director nine years.

JOHN OTTO, though now practically living retired, has been one of the important factors in the business circles of McLean county, and his life is an exemplification of the term "the dignity of labor." The possibilities that America offers to her citizens he has utilized, and though he came to this country in limited circumstances he has steadily and perseveringly worked his way upward, leaving the ranks of the many to stand among the successful few.

Mr. Otto was born in Erdebricken, Prussia, July 7, 1817, a son of Michael and Catherina (Benter) Otto. The early home of the family was near that place, and there the father engaged in farming until coming to the new world, about 1841. He located first in Ohio, but later came to McLean county, Illinois, where his death occurred.

Our subject was educated in the common schools of his native land, where he



obtained a good education in the German language and also learned the English letters, but his entire knowledge of our tongue has been acquired since his emigration to America. He continued working on farms until 1838, when he sailed for the United States, spending his twenty-first birthday upon the ocean. He first settled in Butler county, Ohio, and while working on a farm there he learned to read and write the English language without attending school. For some time he was in the employ of others, and then he and a brother purchased a farm, which they sold in coming to McLean county, in 1853. Here Mr. Otto bought ninety acres of partially improved land in Dry Grove township, and to its cultivation and improvement devoted his energies until 1866.

In the meantime he was married, August 5, 1858, to Miss Magdalena Kennell, also a native of Germany, who died in 1875. Of the three children born to them one died previous to the mother's death, and Ernest K. died at the age of eighteen years. Robert J., the only one now living, married Rose Ruh, of Bloomington, and is now engaged in the real estate and insurance business in that city.

On leaving his farm in Dry Grove township, in 1866, Mr. Otto came to Bloomington and purchased four acres of land on West Mulberry street, west of the railroad, which he laid out in lots and sold three-fourths of them at a good profit. Upon one acre he erected a residence for his own use, and there made his home until 1883. Before coming to Bloomington he had bought and sold considerable property in the country at different times, and as he had met with excellent success, he embarked in the real-estate business in the city. He has

dealt quite extensively in farming lands, at times owning several hundred acres, and at present has one hundred and sixty acres in Chenoa township, McLean county, the same amount just over the line in Livingston county, Illinois, and one hundred and sixty acres with his son in Iowa. He also owns a large brick building at the corner of Madison and Monroe streets, adjoining his home at No. 303 Monroe, and is a stockholder in the Third National Bank. All of this property has been acquired by his excellent business ability, untiring energy and sagacity, for he came to America not only empty-handed but in debt. While in the country he served as school director, but has never cared for official positions, preferring rather to give his undivided attention to his business interests. He is an active and prominent member of the Menonite church, and one of the first of that denomination to locate in the county.

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CHARLES HENRY MORRIS, who carries on general farming and stock raising in Cropsey township, is numbered among Ohio's native sons, his birth having occurred in Mt. Vernon, Knox county, on the 21st of June, 1848. His father, David Morris, was born in Wheeling West Virginia, October 17, 1812, and in his youth learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed throughout his entire life, being an architect and contractor during the last twenty years of his business career. On leaving the state of his nativity he removed to Mt. Vernon, Ohio, about 1830, and was identified with its building interests until his death, which occurred in 1882. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Mary Bricker, was born in



Pennsylvania, about 1812, and was married in Ohio, in 1842, to David Morris. In the family were five sons and one daughter. Newman, the eldest, died at the age of twenty-two years; and Mishachhyatt contracted fever while in the army and died at the close of the civil war. Louisa, the daughter, is the wife of Nicholas Deitrich, a successful farmer residing near Monroe, Jasper county, Iowa. They have four children: Morris, who is married; Charles; Mary, who is also married; and Allie. William H. married Martha Phillips, in Mt. Vernon, Ohio, and follows farming near Hartford, Iowa. He served during the civil war in Company H, Fourth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. They have four children: Edward, Frank, Jessie, and Allie. Charles H. is the next of the family. Columbus D., twin brother of our subject, is the agent for the Middle Division Elevator Company at Anchor, Illinois. He married Maria J. Mann, and their children are Lula, Pearl, Edward, Clara, Leona and Viola. The mother of our subject died in 1854.

Charles H. Morris completed his education in the Mt. Vernon Union College, where he pursued a four years elective course with the intention of later preparing for the medical profession. On leaving school he studied medicine for four months with Dr. J. W. Russell, but not finding the business to his taste he came to Illinois in 1867 and has since been identified with its farming interests. He first rented land, leasing the place upon which he now resides for fifteen years. He is successfully engaged in farming and stock raising and makes a specialty of the breeding of fine road horses and Jersey cattle. For a time he purchased stock for shipment but now devotes his energies almost entirely to the cultivation of his fields. He is a man of marked industry and enterprise

and his success is the result of well-directed labors.

Mr. Morris was married March 25, 1874, to Rachel, daughter of Henry and Mary (Powell) Darnell. Her parents were early settlers of Livingston county, owning a large farm near Indian Grove. The father was a native of Virginia, while his wife was born near Lexington, Kentucky, and for many years they were identified with the development and progress of this section of Illinois. In his later years Mr. Darnell disposed of much of his property, but at the time of his death was still the owner of a valuable tract of one hundred and twenty acres. Mr. and Mrs. Darnell became the parents of twelve children: Elvira married Joshua Hildreth; they have seven children—William, Albert, Henry, Charles, Dora, Minnie and Cora. Martha A. married George Moore, and they have three living children—Mary, Etta and George; an infant died unnamed. James T. died in the civil war. Rebecca is the wife of Frank Rockfellow and they have three children—Henry, Zella and Frank. Emeline, wife of William Darnell, who after his death married Benjamin Fleming; she is now deceased. Celia C., wife of Benjamin Rayburn; they have seven living children. Bundrum married Sarah Powell, and has three children—Flora, Jessie and Curtis. Sarah, wife of J. W. Coombes, has three children—Pearl, Edna and Jesse; Mrs. Coombes is now deceased. The wife of our subject was next in order of birth. Kizzie, wife of Frank Crouch, has two children—Jennie and Elmer; by a former marriage she has one son, Clifton. Edith is the wife of Byron Crouch, and they have ten children. Mrs. Morris was born January 24, 1854, at Indian Grove, Lexington

county, Illinois, and by her marriage became the mother of six sons and two daughters, but D. Edwin, the second child, died in infancy; and an infant died unnamed. Lillie, the eldest, is the wife of Morris Hickey, who is employed in the elevator at Anchor, and they have one son, Curtis. Delano, who in the Spanish-American war enlisted in Troop G, First Illinois Cavalry, is now assisting in the operation of the home farm. Charles Elmer is employed by an uncle in Wood River, Nebraska; Otto, Don and Orville are attending the district schools. The parents and five of their children are members of the Christian church and Mr. Morris is now serving as one of its deacons. In politics he has been a stanch Republican since casting his first presidential vote. In his township he has held the office of constable for a number of years, and as school director he has done effective service in the cause of education. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Royal Circle, and in the former has held a number of offices, while in the latter he is now serving as chaplain.

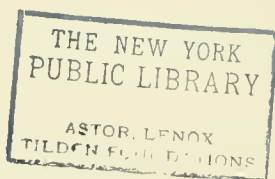
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**T**OBIAS S. STAUFFER, a leading citizen and successful farmer and stock-raiser of Cheney Grove township, whose home is on section 29, was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, April 21, 1836, a son of Tobias and Anna (Shank) Stauffer, also natives of that county, where the families were established at an early day. His paternal grandfather was John Stauffer, who lived to the advanced age of ninety years, and the maternal grandfather was John Shank. The great-great-grandfather, John Stauffer, was a native of Switzerland, and

on his emigration to the new world located in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania. He married a Miss Shank prior to the Revolutionary war.

Our subject grew to manhood in his native county and was provided with good school advantages. He first attended the common schools, and later the Pennsylvania State Normal, at Millersville, and he successfully engaged in teaching for eight terms in Lancaster county, and for one term in Danvers township after coming to this county. On the 20th of November, 1860, he was married, in Pennsylvania, to Miss Mary S. Bishop, also a native of Lancaster county, and a daughter of Henry and Catherine (Shelley) Bishop, who were born in the same place. Her maternal grandfather, David Shelley, was one of the pioneers of Illinois, becoming a resident of Clinton in 1833.

In 1867 Mr. Stauffer and his wife, in company with her parents, came to this state and settled in Madison county, where they arrived in April of that year. There our subject worked on a farm, clerked in a store and later started out as a harvest hand. In the last named capacity he came to McLean county where he concluded to locate. His first purchase consisted of forty acres of land in Dry Grove township, which at that time was entirely unimproved. After erecting a small house thereon he began to break and place under cultivation his land, and he continued its operation, together with rented land, for eleven years. Selling out in 1878, he bought a farm of eighty acres in Normal township, four miles from Bloomington, on which he lived for six years, during which time he remodeled the house and built a new barn. He then disposed of that place and bought an improved farm



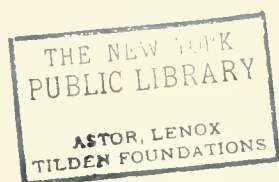


MRS. T. S. STAUFFER.





TOBIAS S. STAUFFER.



of one hundred and sixty acres in Old Town township, to the further improvement and cultivation of which he devoted his energies for nine years, tilling his land, repairing his residence and building outbuildings. On selling out that farm he bought two hundred acres on section 29, Cheney Grove, where he now resides. Here he has a large and substantial brick residence, a good barn and other outbuildings. A good orchard and ornamental trees enhance the beauty and value of the place, and it is pleasantly located within a mile of Saybrook. Mr. Stauffer gives considerable attention to the stock business. While in Normal township he kept a large number of milch cows and engaged in the dairy business, and during his residence in Cheney Grove township has made a specialty of the raising of cattle and also draft and road horses. Although he started out in life empty-handed he has through his well-directed efforts, untiring industry and perseverance become quite well-to-do, being the owner of a large and valuable farm under a high state of cultivation and well improved.

Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Stauffer. (1) Lineas B. went to Kansas, where he took up a homestead and later married, but subsequently sold out and returned to McLean county. His last days, however, were spent in Missouri, and he died at Chillicothe, that state, March 15, 1899, leaving a wife and three children. (2) David M. is an enterprising and substantial farmer and stock-raiser of McLean county. (3) Harry B., who is successfully engaged in the operation of two hundred and forty acres of land in Cheney Grove township, is married and has two children. (4) Benjamin Franklin is engaged in agricultural pursuits on one hundred and sixty

acres of land in the same township. (5) Albert assists his father in the operation of the home farm. (6) Anna May, the oldest daughter, died in childhood in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania. (7) Lizzie is the wife of Burton Scouten, of Cheney Grove township.

Mr. Stauffer cast his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1860, and was an ardent supporter of the Republican party for many years, but being a strong temperance man he is now identified with the Prohibition party. He and his wife were reared in the Menonite church, but now attend and support the United Brethren church. He has been called upon to fill a number of local offices of honor and trust, having served as collector in Dry Grove and Old Town townships, and as township clerk, and during his residence in Pennsylvania, he filled the office of justice of the peace for five years, and as assessor for some time. He has also been a member of the school board in Normal, Old Town and Cheney Grove townships and his official duties have always been most faithfully and capably performed, winning the commendation of all concerned.

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DAVID N. LONGWORTH, section 34, Mt. Hope township, is the owner of a valuable farm of two hundred and sixty acres, which is kept under a high state of cultivation. He is a native of the township, and was born August 23, 1845. His grandfather, John Longworth, was a native of Virginia, and was among the first to locate in Muskingum county, Ohio, where his son, John Longworth, Jr., was born in 1809. The latter grew to manhood in his native county and there married Miss Prudence

Edwards, a native of Maine, whose parents were also early settlers of Ohio. In 1836, John Longworth, Jr., the father of our subject, came to McLean county, and purchased a farm of one hundred and ninety-three acres in Mt. Hope township, erected a dwelling house, and commenced to further improve the place. After many years of active labor, he moved to the village of McLean and there lived a retired life. His wife dying in 1880, he later married again, but his second wife survived him but a short time. He subsequently made his home with his daughter, Mrs. Farnsworth, where his death occurred in 1887. He was quite prominent in local affairs, and held several township offices, including supervisor and assessor.

On the home farm the subject of this sketch spent his boyhood and youth, and in the district schools received his primary education. He then spent one year at Wesleyan University, Bloomington, and later attended Shurtleff College, Alton, Illinois, for four terms. After attaining his majority he purchased eighty acres of land adjoining the farm of his father, and for eight years engaged in its cultivation. It was during this time that he attended Shurtleff College. In May, 1864, he enlisted in Company D, One Hundred and Forty-fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. The regiment was sent to Springfield, Illinois, where it was mustered out of service and the men discharged at the expiration of their time.

Returning home, Mr. Longworth resumed farming, but later purchased an established drug business in McLean, and continued in that line for three years, building up a good trade. In 1875 he went to Kansas and engaged in the cattle business, purchasing two hundred and eighty head of

Texas steers, which he prepared for the market. After keeping them over a year, he disposed of the stock and returned home. He then sold his eighty-acre farm and purchased eighty acres of his present farm. At that time there were no improvements on the place, but in due time he erected a good residence, barn and other outbuildings. After getting all things in order, on the 5th of February, 1880, he was united in marriage with Miss Jennie Oldaker, a native of Ohio, but who was reared in Atlanta, Illinois, and daughter of Jesse Oldaker, a farmer near Atlanta, but formerly from Ohio. Mrs. Longworth received a good education, and for a time before her marriage was a teacher in the public schools.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Longworth moved into the house which he had prepared for their occupancy, and there they have since continued to reside. As his means increased, Mr. Longworth added to the area of his land until the home farm contains two hundred and sixty acres, and in addition to the family residence, he has erected two tenement dwellings, barns, carriage house, wind mills, and made many other substantial improvements. In her own right, Mrs. Longworth owns sixty acres of the old home place of her father, and eighty acres in Funk's Grove township. In addition to general farming, Mr. Longworth has given special attention to raising and handling stock, and has the reputation of being one of the most successful farmers in the township.

To Mr. and Mrs. Longworth have been born two sons, Varner and Clifford R., both of whom are students in the home school. Politically he is a Republican, with which party he has been identified since casting his first ballot for General Grant, in 1868.



He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church of McLean, of which he is a member of the official board. Fraternally he is a member of McLean Lodge, A. F. & A. M., and also of the Modern Woodmen of America. A life-long resident of the county, he has always been identified with its farming and business interests, and his influence has always been on the side of right, doing all in his power to make the county occupy its present proud position in the great prairie state.

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JOHN A. SMITH, was born in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, April 15, 1840. His father, John Smith, was also a native of that state, born in Butler county, March 21, 1808, and in Armstrong county, Pennsylvania, married Miss Rachel Easley, whose birth occurred there in 1807. For a number of years the father engaged in mining in his native state, but on coming to Illinois, in 1856, turned his attention to farming, operating the Abraham Jones farm in Towanda township, McLean county, for a few years. He then purchased eighty acres of land in Old Town township of W. H. Dooley, and to its improvement and cultivation at once devoted his energies. On selling that place he moved to Downs township, where he purchased fifty-eight acres of land for twenty-five dollars per acre, and made his home there until his death, which occurred in 1885. His estimable wife had passed away in August, 1883. Our subject is the third in order of birth in their family of six children, the others being as follows: George, whose home is near Clinton, Missouri, has one daughter living, Rebecca, now the wife of Harvey Slemons, of Bloomington, Illinois, his wife and four of his

children having perished in the fire which destroyed his home some years ago. Elizabeth is the wife of Anson Dart, who lives on a farm near Gibson county, Illinois, and they have four children, Albert, Mary, Eugene and Elwin. Theodore, whose home is near Anchor, this county, has two children, Ella and Albert. William lives on the home farm near Downs, which he has enlarged by the purchase of other land, and he has five children, John, Elizabeth, Raymond, William and Helen. Mary is the wife of James Hickey, a farmer near Gibson City, and they have six children, John, Morris, Patrick, William, James, Mamie and Rachel.

The subject of this sketch is indebted to the public schools of the state for his educational advantages, which were rather limited. He lived at home until he was married, in 1866, to Miss Delphine Du Boise, who was born in Canada, January 29, 1849, and when seven years of age came to Peoria county, Illinois, with her parents, Bartholomew and Adaline Du Boise, their marriage being celebrated in that county. Five children have been born to them, namely: George W., a farmer near Anchor, who wedded Mary Hasty, and has two daughters, Grace and Velna; William A., on the home farm, who married Annie Conley, and has one daughter, Pearl; Charles E., who also assists in the operation of the home farm; Olive, now the wife of Dr. Samuel Bane, a prominent physician of Ellsworth, Illinois, and Perry Lee, who was born October 30, 1882, and is at home. The children have been given good educations.

Soon after his marriage Mr. Smith purchased one hundred and sixty acres of swampy land in Anchor township, for which he paid ten dollars per acre, the nearest

market at that time being Fairbury, sixteen miles distant. He has since laid many rods of tiling, has placed the land under a high state of cultivation, has erected a comfortable residence and all necessary outbuildings, and made many other improvements upon the place, so that it is now a most desirable farm. He has also extended its boundaries by the purchase of an additional eighty-acre tract of partially improved land, for which he paid fifty dollars per acre. He is engaged in general farming and stock-raising, and is meeting with well deserved success in his labors.

**JAMES BISHOP**, a prominent agriculturist, who resides on section 13, Randolph township, owns and operates a valuable farm of four hundred acres, whose neat and thrifty appearance well indicates his careful supervision. Substantial improvements are surrounded by well-tilled fields, and all the accessories and conveniences of a model farm are there found. He has made his home in this county since the 1st of June, 1840, and throughout the greater part of his active business life has given considerable attention to raising fine stock.

Mr. Bishop was born in Champaign county, Ohio, November 12, 1821, and is a representative of a family of English origin which was founded in Virginia at an early day in the history of this country. His great-grandfather was John Bishop, a resident of that state, and there the grandfather, James Bishop, was born, but in early life went to Kentucky and later to Clark county, Ohio. Aquilla Bishop, father of our subject, was born in Virginia, but was reared in Kentucky, and when a young man went to Ohio, becoming one of the

substantial farmers, stock-raisers and drovers of Champaign county. He married Miss Susanna Wing, a native of Kentucky.

During his boyhood and youth James Bishop attended the country schools of his native county to some extent, but his time was mostly devoted to farm work. In 1840, when a young man of nineteen years, he came to McLean county, Illinois, with his uncle, Martin Bishop, and here worked by the month for one man for six years, receiving one hundred dollars per year. Out of this he managed to save four hundred dollars, which he invested in a tract of one hundred and forty-seven acres of land, of which a few acres had been broken and a shanty erected there. To the further improvement and development of this farm he has since devoted his energies, though he has since extended its boundaries from time to time until he had five hundred and twenty acres of most excellent farming land, but has given away one hundred and twenty acres. Upon the place he has erected a good set of buildings and made many other improvements. For years he has engaged in feeding and dealing in cattle, usually shipping two or three car-loads annually, besides two car-loads of hogs. In 1896 he bought some pure-blooded shorthorn cattle of the imported Caroline stock, and now has a fine herd of thirty-two, with Financier, of Cruikshank stock, a beautiful male, three years old and weighing twenty-two hundred pounds, at its head. This herd includes many fine cows and heifers, besides other males, which he has for sale.

In Randolph township Mr. Bishop was married March 26, 1846, to Miss Mary Thompson, a daughter of George Thompson and a sister of William Thompson, whose sketch may be found on another page

of this work. She was born in Hamilton county, Ohio, but was reared and educated in this county. Our subject and his wife have the following children: George, a planter of Mississippi; Jane, wife of James Welsh, who is also represented elsewhere in this volume; Arthur, a farmer of Randolph township; James A., a resident of Bloomington; Charles, a farmer of Randolph township; and Mary Ida, wife of Ray Baramore, of Downs. They lost four children either in infancy or early childhood, and Chloe, wife of Absalom Funk, is also deceased.

On attaining his majority, Mr. Bishop became identified with the Whig party, and since voting for Fremont in 1856 has been a stanch supporter of the Republican party. His record is that of a man who, by his own unaided efforts, has worked his way upward to a position of affluence. His life has been one of industry and perseverance, and the systematic and honorable business methods he has followed have won him the support and confidence of many. This honored citizen and his estimable wife, who are sincere members of the Methodist church, are held in high respect and esteem by all who know them.

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**T**HOMAS B. PUMPELLY, who resides on section 4, Mount Hope township, is the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres, which is kept under an excellent state of cultivation. He is a native of Maine, born in Oxford county, July 1, 1828, and is the son of Bennett and Mary (Irish) Pumpelly, both of whom were also natives of Maine. The paternal grandfather, also named Bennett Pumpelly, was a native of Maine, and a soldier in the Revolutionary

army, serving under Lafayette and Washington. He went into the service a young man of seventeen, and during the entire struggle of seven years did his duty faithfully.

Bennett Pumpelly, the father of our subject, was married in his native state, and in 1835, with his family, moved to Kentucky, settling near Maysville, Mason county, where he purchased mill property and a farm, and in connection with his farming operations was engaged in running both a saw and grist mill. He was a very active and enterprising citizen of Mason county, and there spent the remainder of his life, dying about 1857.

The subject of this sketch was seven years old when he accompanied his parents to Mason county, Kentucky, and in that state he grew to manhood, receiving a limited education in the common schools. He remained with his father until after he attained his majority, but believing the broad prairies of Illinois would be a better place for him in which to make his way in the world, he decided on coming here. In 1854 he came to McLean county and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of wild land in Mount Hope township; he undertook to bring it under cultivation, and make of it an excellent farm. In 1855 he built on the place a small frame house, and made other improvements. Later he returned to Kentucky, and was married near Maysville, December 2, 1856, to Miss Harriet E. Pumpelly, a native of New Hampshire, born in Windham county, and daughter of Benjamin E. Pumpelly, a native of Maine, who moved to Lowell, Massachusetts, where he married Miss Mary Cochrane, who was born in Windham county, New Hampshire, and who traced her ancestry back to the early



part of the seventeenth century, her people being among the Pilgrims of that day. The mother of Mary Cochrane was a Dinsmore, and her grandfather, Robert Dinsmore, was a poet of no mean ability, the author of the "Rustic Bard."

The next morning after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Pumpelly started for their future home in McLean county, and began their domestic life in the house which he had prepared for the reception of his bride the previous year. There they have since continued to reside, and on that farm their four children were born. Each of their children have been well provided for, and all have received collegiate educations. William N. is married, and with his wife and daughter he now resides in Quincy, Illinois, where he has a good business position. Mary E. is the wife of Thomas A. Minier, of Craig, Nebraska, where he is engaged in the raising and breeding of fine stock. George L. resides in St. Louis, Missouri, where he holds the position of cashier for the Vermont Life Insurance Company. Harriet C., a graduate of the McLean high school, and of St. Mary's Academy, Notre Dame, Indiana, still remains at home. She completed the course in the latter institution in 1893, since which time she has taken a course in the Wesleyan University, Bloomington, Illinois. At present she is engaged in teaching in the schools of McLean.

Mr. Pumpelly has never been a politician in the current acceptation of the term, but he has always manifested an interest in current political events, and, believing the principles of the Republican party better suited to the wants of the whole people, he has always given his support to that party. For some years he served as a member of the school board, the only office which he

would ever consent to hold. He joined the Masonic order in 1852, but is now a demitted member.

Mr. and Mrs. Pumpelly have resided in McLean county a period of forty-three years. They are well known, especially in the southwestern part, and all who know them entertain for them the highest regard. While they have lived quiet, unassuming lives, they have left the impress of their character and lives on the community, and that only for good.

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**BENJAMIN L. LUCAS.** Few of McLean county's native sons can claim a longer residence here than Mr. Lucas, now the well known real-estate dealer of Bloomington. He was born January 9, 1831, his parents, William and Gooden (Hendrix) Lucas, having come to the county in 1826. They were both natives of North Carolina, and having married in the south started for Illinois in the year mentioned, making the journey across the country with ox teams. At length they arrived at their destination and located upon a squatter's claim south of Blooming Grove. When the land came into market Mr. Lucas entered one hundred and sixty acres from the government and continued its cultivation until his death, which occurred in December, 1839. The mother was left with ten children, but she survived only until the March following her husband's death and the children were thus left alone. The older ones, however, managed to keep the family together for a time. The eldest brother, Richmond Lucas, was appointed guardian to our subject, who is the youngest of the family. He purchased the interests of the other heirs in the home place and thus became the owner of the



property, which then comprised three hundred and twenty acres of land.

Upon that farm Benjamin L. Lucas was reared to manhood, remaining with his brother until he had attained his majority. He acquired his education in the district schools of that day and at the age of fifteen entered upon his business career. "The boy is father to the man," and the industry and enterprise which Mr. Lucas thus early manifested have characterized his entire career. He continued to live on the old homestead but followed farming on his own account and also engaged in dealing in cattle. He began with forty acres of land, but rented one hundred and sixty acres of his brother, and fed all that he raised to his stock. He managed his interests with such ability and labored so untiringly that at the age of twenty-one he was the owner of eight hundred acres of land and had a cash capital of twelve thousand dollars. A remarkable record for a young man.

On attaining his majority he came to Bloomington with the intention of pursuing a full course of study in the Illinois Wesleyan University, but after five months he had traded for a stock of dry goods on the southside of Front street, between Main and Center streets, and thus began general merchandising as a member of the firm of Everly & Lucas. This connection was continued for four years, when Mr. Lucas purchased his partner's interest and continued alone in business for a short time, when he sold out to a California firm. In the financial panic of 1856 he lost all that he had made and had to start in anew, hampered by an indebtedness of several thousand dollars. In the course of years these debts were outlawed, but he paid every dollar, nevertheless, and won the esteem of his fel-

low men as one whose honor is unimpeachable. He first accepted a position as a salesman and was thus employed for four years. Then he once more began merchandising for himself, forming a partnership with J. L. Rice, in 1861, at the beginning of the war. The terms of agreement were that Mr. Lucas should have entire charge of the business for one-fourth the profits. He dealt in dry goods and carpets, and though he began with a few thousand dollars capital, he cleared thirty-two thousand dollars the first year. The next year, in the midst of successful operations, Mr. Rice died of typhoid fever, and Mr. Lucas then closed out the business, selling to Mr. Nicolls, for whom he worked for six months. At the expiration of that period he bought out his employer and enjoyed a prosperous trade for two years as a member of the firm of B. L. Lucas & Company, his partner being Mr. Wyatt. He then sold out and accepted a position, temporarily as he thought, at a salary of one hundred and twenty-five dollars per month, but for eighteen years he remained in that place, and in all that time never lost a day's pay. That was the largest salary ever paid a dry-goods salesman in Bloomington,—certainly a high tribute to his marked ability and one which indicates in an unmistakable manner his trustworthiness, ability and fidelity to duty. In 1889 Mr. Lucas retired from the store, sold his property in Bloomington, and removed to St. Paul, Minnesota, where he engaged in the real estate, loan and insurance business during a time of "boom" in that city. Later, when the reaction came, he returned to Bloomington and has since engaged in the same line of business in this place, handling both farm and city property, owned by himself and by others. His wide

acquaintance gave him an advantage in this direction, and his reliable judgment and watchful care of business interests have enabled him to pursue the advantage and work up a good business. He is now meeting with prosperity in the undertaking, and his success is certainly well merited, for his business methods are above question.

On the 4th of January, 1853, Mr. Lucas wedded Miss Mary L. Wilson, a daughter of Robert Wilson. She is a native of Washington Courthouse, Ohio, and accompanied her parents on their removal from that place to Terre Haute, Indiana, whence they came to Bloomington. The father was a harness and saddlery manufacturer and died in this city. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Lucas have been born four children: Adella, wife of John Ollis, of Pittsburg, Kansas, by whom she has four children, Ethel, Clara, Genevieve and Benjamin; Lewis W., a real-estate dealer, who married Miss Jennie Cannon, of Bloomington, and has a daughter, Myrtle; Minnie May, wife of W. B. Davis, of St. Paul, Minnesota, by whom she has three children, Helen, Alice and an infant; and Lawrence R., who is now in Minnesota. He enlisted in the Fourteenth Minnesota Regiment during the Spanish-American war, but owing to the speedy termination of the war, after remaining in camp at Chickamauga for a time, the command was ordered home and mustered out at Fort Snelling.

Mr. and Mrs. Lucas are faithful and prominent members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He became a member at the age of fifteen, has been church treasurer and a member of the board of stewards for a number of years, and a teacher in the Sunday-school for many years. He was at one time a leading member of the Temple

of Honor, a temperance organization, and although he does not hold active connection with the society now, his adherence to temperance principles is just as strong. He belongs to Bloomington Lodge, No. 43, F. & A. M.; Bloomington Lodge, No. 77, I. O. O. F., and the Knights of Honor. He has twice served as city alderman, and was filling the position when the city water-works were put in and the stand-pipe built. He has been at all times a loyal and progressive citizen, supporting all measures for the public good along educational, moral, social and material lines. He has met with reverses and difficulties in his business career, yet by perseverance and straightforward effort he has overcome these, and is now accounted a substantial resident of Bloomington; but above all and through all he has retained that priceless jewel—a good name, which is rather to be chosen than great riches.

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**GEORGE SWINEHART.** In time to come this volume will acquire added value as a repository of records whose historical significance will then be fully appreciated, but readers will doubtless pursue with special interest the stories of gallant service in that great struggle which settled once for all that this nation is, in truth, "one and indivisible." It has often been said that the letters sent home during the war by the soldiers of all grades, would make, if published, a better history of the war than has yet been given, and the suggestive views of the conflict in the individual experiences contained in this book certainly give new color to many historic scenes. One of McLean county's most valiant soldiers was the gentleman whose name introduces this record, now a leading

and prosperous farmer of Martin township, his home being on section 18.

Mr. Swinehart was born in Wayne county, Ohio, May 4, 1840, and is a son of Samuel Swinehart, and grandson of George Swinehart, a native of Germany and Pennsylvania. The father was born near Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in 1814, and when a young man removed to Ohio, where he married Barbara A. Snavelly, also a native of the Keystone state. To them were born ten children, five sons and five daughters, namely: George, Elizabeth, Samuel, Barbara, Nancy A., Emanuel, William H., Susan, John and Sarah L. Samuel, Nancy A. and Susan are now deceased. The father, who was a farmer by occupation, died December 21, 1888, and the mother departed this life March 6, 1879.

Our subject obtained the greater part of his education in the county of his nativity, but also attended school to some extent after the removal of the family to Funks Grove, McLean county, Illinois, in 1856. He remained at home until after the breaking out of the civil war, when, prompted by a spirit of patriotism, he enlisted, August 7, 1862, in Company A, One Hundred and Seventeenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. With his command he went to Helena, Arkansas; then chased Forrest and his forces from western Tennessee; was in the Meridian campaign, and after that returned to Vicksburg on the 4th of March, 1863. The regiment then took part in the Red river expedition, assisted in the battle and capture of Fort De Russya March 14, 1864; was in the battle of Pleasant Hill, April 9, and later was in the engagements at Cloutierville, Come river, Bayou Rapids and Governor Moore's plantation. They were at Bayou Roberts from the 3d to the 7th of

May, in the battle of Yellow Bayou May 18, arrived at the Mississippi river on the 20th of that month, and reached Vicksburg on the 27th. They assisted in chasing General Marmaduke from Chicot lake and Columbus, Arkansas, and arrived at Memphis June 10, 1864. On the 14th of that month they marched to the relief of General Sturgis, and on the 23d began the Tupelo campaign, which lasted up to August 5. They were in the engagement at Hurricane creek, August 18, 19 and 20, and returned to Memphis on the 30th. They arrived at Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, September 18, were in the engagement at Franklin October 1, and returned to St. Louis November 19. The command next moved to Nashville, Tennessee, taking position in the trenches December 1, 1864, and, under General Thomas and Major-General A. J. Smith, took part in the battle where General Hood's rebel army was annihilated December 15 and 16. They went in pursuit of that general's forces and captured a rebel battery of three guns, which they used against the enemy. They reached Clifton January 4, 1865, embarked at Eastport for New Orleans, where they arrived January 17, and on March 7 re-embarked at Chalmette and moved to Dauphin Island, and from there to Fish river with the Sixteenth Army Corps, Major-General A. J. Smith commanding. They were in the engagement at Spanish Fort from March 27 until April 2, and were then at Fort Blakely until the 9th, taking part in its capture. On the 13th of April they marched to Montgomery, Alabama, and from there returned to Camp Butler, Springfield, Illinois, where Mr. Swinehart was mustered out and honorably discharged August 5, 1865. During his service he traveled two thousand



three hundred and seven miles, mostly on foot, participated in six important battles and thirty-three skirmishes, and was always found at his post of duty, bravely defending the old flag and the cause it represented.

Returning to his home in McLean county, he has since devoted his attention to the honorable occupation of farming with most gratifying results. After operating rented land for several years, he purchased two hundred and forty acres on section 18, Martin township, in 1882; five years later bought eighty acres on section 7; and in 1897 purchased one hundred and sixty acres adjoining, making four hundred and eighty acres of as valuable farming land as is to be found in this section of the county. On the original purchase he erected, in 1892, a fine residence, has remodeled his barns and made many other substantial improvements, which add greatly to its attractive appearance as well as value.

On the 16th of September, 1866, Mr. Swineheart wedded Miss Mary J. Mattocks, of Stanford, Illinois, who died September 8, 1873, leaving two sons, William L. and S. Edward. The older, who is now operating one of his father's farms, married Annie B. Davis, of Mackinaw, and they have two children, Vivian D. and Una F. Our subject was again married, February 21, 1875, his second union being with Miss Elizabeth J. McConkey, of Stanford, by whom he has four children, two sons and two daughters, namely: Winnie M., Barbara L., Bertrum O. and George, Jr. Barbara L. married Richard Ward, of Martin township, who is now engaged in the furniture business with Burt Hoover, at Colfax, this county.

Mrs. Swinehart's father, William McConkey, was born in Ohio, January 11,

1803, and was a son of William and Elizabeth (McCelvey) McConkey, both natives of Pennsylvania. In their family were eight children: James, Sarah, Elizabeth, Martha, Mary, Jennie, William and——. William McConkey, Jr., was educated in the common schools of his day and throughout life devoted his attention to the cultivation of the soil. In 1827 he married Miss Jennie McCordy, a native of Pennsylvania, and six children were born of that union, five sons and one daughter, as follows: James, who was a soldier in the volunteer army of the north for the suppression of the rebellion and when last heard of was in a hospital, where he probably died; Daniel, who was also a soldier of the civil war, and was honorable discharged on a surgeon's certificate of disability in 1863; Robert; George, and Elizabeth J., wife of our subject. The father of these children died January 28, 1880, and the mother passed away October 12, 1874.

Mr. Swinehart and his family hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, of Cooksville, in which he is serving as steward and trustee. His political support is always given the men and measures of the Republican party, and his aid is never withheld from any enterprise which he believes calculated to advance the moral, social or material interests of his township and county. He has manifested the same loyalty in days of peace as in days of war, and all who know him have for him the highest regard.

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MARION McCORMICK, who resides on section 4, Mt. Hope township, has been one of the active farmers and stock raisers of McLean county since 1864. In



his home farm he has one hundred and sixty-five acres, which is under the highest cultivation, and which is within two miles of the village of McLean. He also owns one hundred and ninety-three acres in sections 31 and 32, and sixty-four acres in section 2, town 21, all of which is well improved.

Mr. McCormick was born in Brown county, Ohio, March 3, 1834, and is the son of Conrad H. McCormick, a native of Ohio, born in 1813, and the grandson of John McCormick, a native of England, and one of the early settlers of Ohio. He was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and fought to secure the independence of the colonies. He lived to the ripe old age of one hundred and three years.

Conrad H. McCormick grew to manhood in Ohio, and there married Miss Jane Porter, a native of Brown county, that state. He was a farmer by occupation, and engaged in that calling both in Highland and Brown counties, Ohio. In 1850, he came to Illinois with his family, driving through with teams to Tazewell county, and locating near Groveland. In 1854 he bought a tract of wild land in Delevan prairie and opened up a farm. To his original purchase he added more land, giving him a good farm of three hundred and twenty acres. He was a very active and enterprising farmer, and after residing in that county for some years he sold out and moved to Kansas, buying land and locating in Sedgwick county, where he yet resides. His family consisted of seven sons, six of whom grew to maturity, four of whom are now living—James, David and Joseph, residing in Sedgwick county, Kansas; and the subject of this sketch.

Marion McCormick spent his boyhood in his native state, and was a youth of sev-

enteen when he accompanied his parents to Tazewell county, Illinois. He there assisted his father in opening up the farm and continued with him until after attaining his majority. His education was limited to the common schools, but he made good use of the opportunities afforded him. He was married in McLean county, January 29, 1861, to Miss Belinda C. Longworth, a native of Ohio, who came to this county, a child of three years, with her father, John Longworth, who settled in Mt. Hope township in 1836. Soon after marriage he located on a farm in Tazewell county, where he remained until he answered his country's call for men, in August, 1862, when he enlisted as a private in Company B, Seventy-third Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He was soon afterwards appointed sergeant in his company, and as such served until his discharge for disability in February, 1863. While in the service he participated in numerous skirmishes and raids after Morgan through Kentucky and Ohio. He was in the battle of Perryville, Kentucky, but was soon after sent to the hospital on account of sickness, and there remained until his discharge.

Returning home, Mr. McCormick resumed farming in Tazewell county, but in 1864 came to McLean county to the farm where he now resides, and which then consisted of but one hundred and twenty acres. It was unimproved land, but he went at once to work in its cultivation. On the place not a furrow had ever been turned. He built a small house on the place in 1864. An orchard was soon set out, shade and ornamental trees were added, and in due time a larger and better residence replaced the old one, and barns and outbuildings were built. From time to time, as his

means increased, he bought more land and now owns three good farms. All that he has is the result of his own industry and good management, with the advice and assistance of his good wife.

Mr. and Mrs. McCormick have had two children: a daughter, Louie M., is now the wife of Joseph W. Stubblefield, a farmer of Mt. Hope township, and they have four children—Marion G., Eunice, Myrtle and Ansel D. Isaac C. died in infancy. They later took a young child, Frank F. Moore, when but three months old, reared and educated him, and he is now farming in Kansas.

The first presidential election after Mr. McCormick attained his majority was in 1856, and at that election he cast his ballot for John C. Fremont, and from that time to the present, he has given his allegiance to the Republican party. He has taken quite an active part in local politics, and since 1891 has served as a member of the board of supervisors from his township, making a most valuable member of that body. A friend of the public schools he has served as school director for three years.

Mr. and Mrs. McCormick are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at McLean, of which he is a member of the board of trustees and chairman of the same. Fraternally he is a member of McLean Lodge, No. —, A. F. & A. M., and also of the G. A. R. Post of McLean, of which he is past commander. For fifty years he has been a resident of Illinois, and for thirty-five years a resident of McLean county, residing during that time on the farm where he still lives. He has witnessed much of the growth of the state, and has experienced something of the toils and privations of pioneer life. He has hauled grain to Pekin and Peoria,

selling his corn for eight cents per bushel, and his wheat for thirty-four cents. In the development of the section in which he lives he has borne well his part.

**C**HARLES MARTENS. In proportion to its population the city of Bloomington numbers among its men of wealth, standing, character and business enterprise as many as any city in the land. Among those recognized as being in the front, and whose skill and ability is unquestioned, is the man whose name heads this sketch, one who came to this country from across the water thirty years ago, empty-handed. However, he brought with him a stout heart, willing hands and a determination to succeed, and success has crowned his efforts in a remarkable degree.

Mr. Martens was born in the village of Kasehaw, Pomeranian Province, Prussia, December 18, 1840, and is a son of Charles Jacob Martens, who was also born and reared there. Our subject was educated in his native village, and there learned the tailor's trade, for which privilege his father paid a certain amount and this being the case his apprenticeship was shortened to three years. He then engaged in business on his own account in Germany for four years and a half. In the meantime he was married, December 13, 1864, to Miss Christina Vosz, and in that country two children were born to them, one of whom, Charles died there. The other, Sophia, is now the wife of Max Gottschelk, of Bloomington. Since coming to America the family circle has been increased by the birth of two children, but one of these, Caroline is now deceased. Those living are Conrad F., who is being educated for the German Lutheran ministry

at Concordia College, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

In 1869, Mr. Martens and his family, accompanied by his parents, came to the new world, and after a short time spent in Randolph county, Illinois, all took up their residence in Bloomington in the spring of 1870. Here the father engaged in farming and teaming, but is now living retired with our subject. He was born January 1, 1820. The mother died in 1887. Both were members of the old Missouri synod of the German Lutheran church.

For a year and nine months after his arrival here Mr. Martens worked for others at his trade, and, learning the English language during that time, he was then able to engage in business on his own account. He formed a partnership with Frederick Meyer, and under the firm name of Meyer & Martens they opened a shop at No. 209 West Jefferson street, but three years later removed to No. 110 South Main street, where they soon built up a large and profitable trade. Together they engaged in business for fifteen years, five of which were spent at No. 105 East Front street. During this time Mr. Martens had charge of the cutting department. In 1883 he purchased a two-story brick building at No. 115 East Front street, known as the old Major block, in the upper story of which the Republican party was formed. Here the firm of Meyer & Martens carried on operations until 1888, when the partnership was dissolved, our subject taking the business, which had become quite large, employment being furnished sixteen men. He still enjoys a fine trade, and is recognized as the leading merchant tailor in the city, as well as the oldest in years of continuous business. As his financial resources have increased he has in-

vested some of his capital in real estate. His first purchase was twenty acres at edge of town. His second purchase consisted of an eighty-acre farm in Blue Mound township, McLean county, which he later sold, but now owns a fine farm of two hundred and fifty-two acres in Randolph and Downs townships, which he has greatly improved as well as thoroughly tiled, and he also has four hundred acres elsewhere in McLean county. In 1898 he purchased a valuable piece of property at the corner of Grove and Centre streets for ten thousand dollars. He has torn down the old building standing thereon, and is now erecting a fine brick block fifty and a half feet front and ninety-nine feet deep, to be used for stores with residences above. Besides the property already mentioned, he owns three lots on Olive street, his home being on two lots, while on the other lot he has a cottage. He has owned a large amount of real estate in Bloomington which he has disposed of at a profit. He has a correct judgment as to values, together with admirable foresight, and his investments have invariably proved successful. He is interested in the National State Bank of Bloomington, and through his own well-directed efforts he has become one of the most prosperous and substantial business men of his adopted city. He is an active member and liberal supporter of the German Lutheran church, served as treasurer when the house of worship was erected, and has since been trustee of the same a number of times.

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JAMES MOTTISFONT VINCENT is a prominent and honored citizen of Blue Mound township, who has through his own well-directed efforts gained a handsome



property and is now enabled to lay aside business cares and enjoy the fruits of his former toil. He was born November 14, 1825, in Mottisfont Monastery, near Romsey, Hampshire, England, seven miles from Southampton, and a peculiar fact in relation to his birth that is worthy of notice is as follows: There was a superstition among the English nobility that no child born in that monastery could live, as such had been the case for two hundred years, and no heir living having been born there, the property, as is customary in England, reverted back to the crown. At the time of the birth of our subject it was owned by Sir Charles and Lady Georgiana Mills, who were the employers of William Vincent, our subject's father, and knowing that a child was to be born to Mr. and Mrs. Vincent, they persuaded them to occupy the place until after the birth of the child, which they consented to do, as they had no faith in the superstition. There our subject was born, and when the owners received word that the child was alive and prospering, they returned to the monastery and the parents again took up their abode at their own home. Lady Mills stood as godmother to our subject and named him Mottisfont in remembrance of this event. This proved to others that the superstition was entirely groundless.

William Vincent was born in Landsdown, near Bath, England, as was also his father, Jonathan Vincent, who was bailiff to the Marquis of Landsdown and afterward, in 1832, to Lord Delaware at Font Hill Abbey. He married a Miss Vincent, who was no relative, and both died in England near their birthplace. Their children were Samuel, John, Nathan, Robert, William and Rachel. William Vincent followed

the occupation of gardener and nurseryman, owning a small amount of land himself but always renting other tracts. He married Jane Longman, who belonged to an old English family, and they held membership in the Church of England or the Episcopal church. Their children were William, who died in infancy; Maria; Victoria, who was born on the same day and year as the Queen; Emma; James M. and William. Only the last two named came to America, and William is at present a painter in Louisville, Kentucky.

James M. Vincent, of this review, attended school at Christ's Church until twelve years of age, and then apprenticed himself to a painter. After working for others in that line for seven years, he began business on his own account. In 1854, in company with his brother, he came to America on the sailing vessel Southampton, shipping from London and landing in New York, whence he proceeded to Albany. There he followed his trade for about two years, and then went to Chicago, where he worked for the same length of time. While at that place he painted the first water-tank erected in the city. The brothers next went to Louisville, Kentucky, where William still lives. After working there for a time James went to New Orleans, where he was employed on the government water-works for about two years, but not meeting with success, he decided to return to England. On reaching Chicago he met a painter who told him to come to Bloomington before leaving, as he thought this was the place for him. Following his advice, Mr. Vincent came to Bloomington, and has since made his home in this section of the state.

In 1858 he married Miss Maria Ward, who was born in 1837, a daughter of Rich-



ard T. and Susan Ward, old settlers of McLean county. Six sons have been born to them, namely: Harry W., a photographer of Bloomington, who married Addie Hughes, and has one child, Burton; Franklin C., who married Bessie B. Banton, and lives in Pullman, Illinois; William, of Bloomington, who married Laura Reardon, and has two children, Hershall and Leo; Richard, who is on the home farm with his father; James, who married Belle Banton, and has five children, Earl C., Frank R., James M., Thomas C. and Maria (the only girl in the Vincent family born in America), and John, at home with his parents. The three oldest sons were born in Tolono, Illinois, the others on the home farm in Blue Mound township, this county.

After his marriage, Mr. Vincent went to Champaign county, where he worked at his trade, and meeting with good success there, he purchased a house and lot in Tolono. He finally sold his property there and returned to Bloomington, and in 1861 purchased forty acres of railroad land on section 30, Blue Mound township, paying for the same twelve dollars per acre. In 1884 he bought another tract of forty acres, adjoining his first purchase, and has made all the improvements on the place, including the erection of good buildings and the setting out of trees. In 1876 he purchased eighty acres on section 32, the same township, and in 1893 one hundred and sixty acres on section 29, where his son now lives. For many years he was actively engaged in agricultural pursuits, but is now living retired in the enjoyment of a well-earned rest, surrounded by all the comforts and many of the luxuries of life.

On first coming to this county, Mr. Vincent found most of this region still in its

primitive condition, and the wild prairies were the haunts of wolves, deer and snakes. At one time the wolves were so numerous and bold that they came within about thirty rods of his house, and were in pursuit of one of the children, who had strayed some distance from the house. The others were attracted by the child's screams and succeeded in frightening the animals away by screaming and running at them. This was but one of the many perils and hardships with which the early settlers had to contend. Mr. Vincent bravely met with difficulties, and has been rewarded by a handsome property. He and his wife are members of the Episcopal church of Bloomington, and have the respect and esteem of all who know them. In politics he and his sons are strong Republicans, but he has never aspired to office, preferring to give his undivided attention to his business interests. He has ever taken a great interest in educational work, however, and has served as school director for twenty-eight years, and as clerk of the school board. He was a charter member of the Grange of Blue Mound, but is not a member of any secret society, desiring rather to devote his time to his family and many friends.

While living in Tolono, Mr. Vincent heard the last speech President Lincoln made in Illinois. He was then returning to Washington, just before his assassination, and it was made from the car window. At first he refused to speak, but our subject, knowing one of the men in the party, Ward H. Lamon, called upon him to persuade the president to make a speech, and he at last consented. It was delivered in the following words, as can be testified to by many of the citizens of Tolono who heard it: "Fellow citizens, there is a heavy

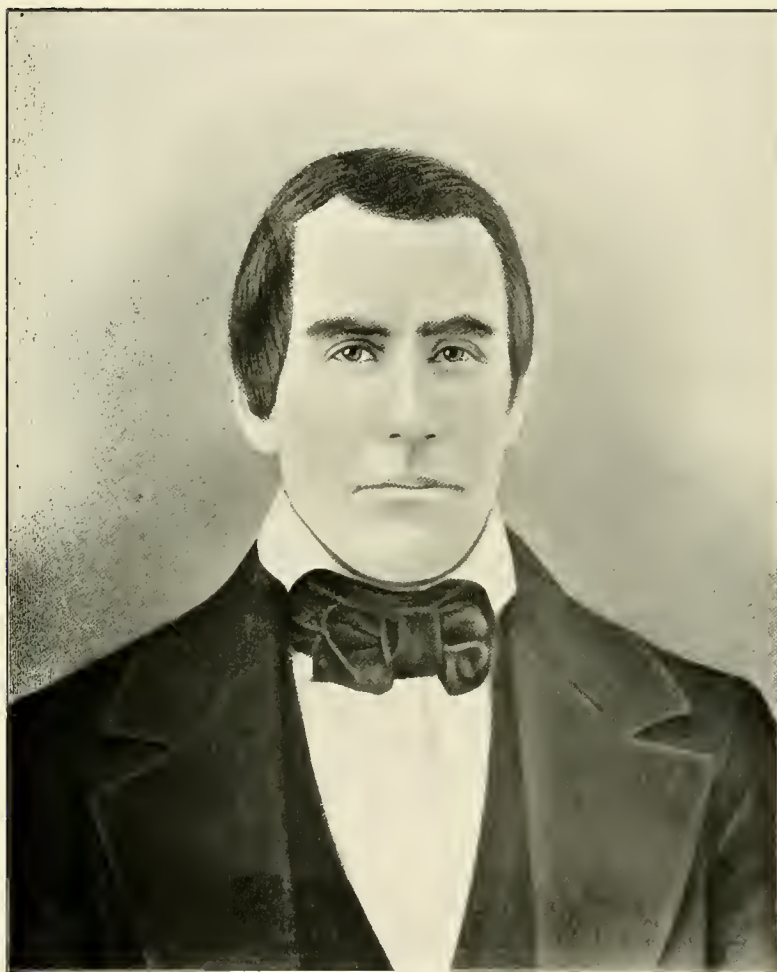
cloud hanging over our country, but there is bright sunshine behind it, and when that cloud blows away, this country will see it in all its brightness." This was so impressed on the mind of Mr. Vincent during the events that so closely followed it, that the memory of that speech has never left him. He took an active part in other stirring events which transpired in Tolono during those dark days. When the soldiers were away at the front, endeavoring to crush out the rebellion in the south, the people left behind held meetings to see what was to be done with the southern sympathizers living in the north. At one of these meetings a man got up and said his sympathies were on the other side. The doors of the building were at once closed, and some of the young men went for ropes with which to hang him, but the older ones prevented them from doing that. The man was put out of the meeting and a delegation was sent to wait upon him. Mr. Vincent was made speaker of the same, and was instructed to say, "Take that speech back or you will have to leave the country." He was given six hours to decide, and in three he had gone.

**H**ONORABLE MATTHEW ROBB, deceased, who was familiarly known as Squire Robb, was for many years one of the best known citizens of McLean county. He was a pioneer among pioneers and the first justice of peace in the county. He was born in Washington county, Kentucky, July 15, 1801, and was the son of Thomas and Lydia (Waller) Robb, the former a native of Ireland, born August 16, 1769, and the latter a native of Wales, born April 23, 1795. They were among the pioneers of Kentucky, and were also pioneers of Indiana, to which

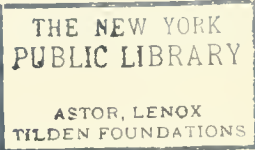
state they removed when our subject was a small boy. Thomas Robb was killed in a runaway, and left a widow and twelve children, eleven of whom grew to maturity, afterwards married and reared families.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in Indiana, and was reared to farm life. His education was received in the pioneer subscription school, which, as was customary, he attended during the winter months. In August, 1821, he was united in marriage with Miss Mary McClure, daughter of Thomas McClure, a pioneer of Indiana. By this union there were six children, three of whom grew to maturity. Eliza J. is the widow of Abraham A. Stansbury, and now resides in Bloomington. Lydia E. is the widow of Hiram L. Phillips, who was a resident of Tazewell county, Illinois. She now makes her home in Bloomington, but spends the most of her time in traveling. Susan M. died when eighteen years of age.

In the spring of 1824, Mr. Robb came with his wife and young child to Illinois and located in Postville, near where the city of Lincoln, Illinois, now stands, but which was then unknown. He there purchased eighty acres of government land, and commenced the development of a farm. After remaining there three years, he sold out and came to what is now McLean county, and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, a part of which now comprises the village of Danvers. After the erection of a couple of log cabins on his place, with his team, he commenced the cultivation of the land. When he first came to the place there was an Indian camp, where he later set out his orchard. They remained there quite a length of time, but gave little trouble to the new comers. There were then but three



MATTHEW ROBB.





families within a radius of many miles, and the prospect was dreary enough indeed for a flourishing settlement at any time in the near future. One by one the settlers came in, and it was not many years before all was changed. But Matthew Robb was pioneer of the locality, and as already stated he was the first justice of the peace in the county, and in that early day when ministers of the gospel were few in number, he was frequently called on to perform the marriage ceremony. It is related that on one dark night, when the creek was full of ice and crossings dangerous, a couple came to the opposite side of the creek from his house, and calling him wished to be united in marriage. Willing to accommodate them he waded out into the stream as far as he dared, and to where he could recognize their faces, he performed the ceremony, and they went on their way rejoicing. On another occasion he was in a great hurry to get off to Springfield to mill, when a couple came up and wished to be married. Mrs. Robb and one of her daughters were in the barn, and before they could reach the house, which was but a little ways off, the ceremony was performed and the couple pronounced man and wife.

Soon after coming to McLean county Mr. Robb and his brother-in-law, Robert McClure, took the contract for the erection of a jail at Mackinaw, Tazewell county, the first institution of the kind in any of the present surrounding counties. Although completed according to contract, Mr. Robb asserted that it was not strong enough to hold any prisoner that might have the desire to escape, and to prove his assertion requested that he might be locked up, with the privilege of breaking out if he could. He had no difficulty whatever in doing so.

When Mr. Robb settled in Stout's Grove, McLean county, about the nearest milling point in which there was any certainty of getting waited on in any reasonable time after his arrival was Springfield. To that point he would go and often be gone an entire week. He later hauled his grain to Chicago, leaving his wife and little children alone. To make that trip required nearly two weeks. His daughter, Mrs. Stansbury, has in her possession a leghorn hat, which he bought in Chicago on one of his earliest trips, the hat requiring the proceeds of a load of wheat.

Mrs. Robb, whose death occurred August 23, 1868, was a woman of remarkable courage. One day when on horseback the dogs with her started up a wolf, and after a chase cornered it. She dismounted, and with the stirrups of her saddle succeeded in killing it. She was a good woman, a kind neighbor, and an affectionate wife and mother. She was a consistent member of the Cumberland Presbyterian church and died in that faith, her membership being with the church in Danvers.

Mr. Robb was a man of more than average ability and always had the confidence of the people among whom he lived. He was likewise a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian church in Danvers, and he and his wife were numbered among its charter members. He always lived an upright life, honoring the Master whom he served. In politics he was originally a Whig, and on that ticket was elected a member of the legislature in 1846, and acceptably served during the session of 1846-7. He held other minor offices, and was justice of the peace for many years, and always went by the name of Squire Robb wherever known. On the dissolution

of the Whig party he became identified with the Republican party, and espoused its principles and voted its ticket until his death, February 24, 1870. He was quite successful in business and became the owner of over twelve hundred acres of fine land in McLean county, and on his original farm the village of Danvers was located. He was a good man and his death was deeply mourned. There are yet many persons in McLean county who retain a warm place in their hearts for Squire Robb, the pioneer.

ANSEL D. HOWARD, a representative business man of McLean, Illinois, has been a resident of Illinois since 1858, and of McLean county since 1861. He was born in Taunton, Bristol county, Massachusetts, August 18, 1831, and comes of good old Massachusetts stock, but traces his ancestry back to England, from which country some of the family came early in the seventeenth century. His father, Ansel Howard, was born in Bridgewater, Massachusetts, June 24, 1803, and died in McLean county, Illinois, January 26, 1890, in his eighty-seventh year. He was the son of Simeon Howard, also born in Bridgewater, Massachusetts, the son of Eliakim Howard, who was also in all probability born in Bridgewater. For many years Eliakim Howard was crier of the court in Bristol county, Massachusetts. The male members of the family have always been possessed of good business ability, and in all its history there is no record of a business failure of one bearing the name.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in his native city, and there received a good common-school education. In his youth he learned the trade of wagon and

carriage making with his father, who was engaged in that business for many years. He later served an apprenticeship of two years in a locomotive machine shops, after which he entered into partnership with his father in wagon and carriage making, which partnership continued for four years. He then sold his interest to his father, and in August, 1858, came to Illinois, and located in Waynesville, where he worked in a wagon shop until February, 1860, when he went to Independence, Buchanan county Iowa, where he worked at his trade for nine months, and then returned to Waynesville, Illinois, and remained until the fall of 1861, when he came to Heyworth, McLean county, and opened a carriage and wagon shop, and carried on business there until the spring of 1866, when he sold out and returned to Taunton, Massachusetts, and worked one year in his father's shops. His father then sold out his business interests and residence, and came to Illinois with his son, and together they bought what was known as the McFarland farm, about one and a half miles from the village of McLean, and which consisted of eighty-seven acres. On that farm our subject resided until 1875, engaged in general farming and stock-raising. Selling the farm at a decided advance on the purchase price, he removed to the village of McLean and started a furniture store and undertaking establishment, in which lines he continued until 1881, when he bought a hardware establishment, and took into partnership his son-in-law, Laban F. Gifford, since which time both branches of the business have been continued with gratifying success, a large trade having been built up with the surrounding country. They carry a full line of shelf and heavy hardware, stoves, house furnishing goods,

windmills, pumps, furniture and undertaking goods, and have an excellent reputation for the reliability of their stock.

The mother of Mr. Howard was a Miss Louisa Wilbur, and she was of one of the most noted families in Taunton, Massachusetts. Her brother, Joseph Wilbur, held the office of recorder of Taunton, Massachusetts, for over fifty years. He was also a deacon in the Congregational church of that city for about the same length of time. He was a very popular man and could have had any position in the gift of the people there for the asking. When he decided that he would no longer hold the office of recorder his son was elected and has now held the office for about thirty years.

At Rehoboth, Massachusetts, in 1855, Mr. Howard was united in marriage with Miss Mary B. Hunter, a native of Warren, Rhode Island, who there grew to womanhood, and daughter of William S. Hunter, who was master-mechanic in the ship yards at Warren, Rhode Island. By this union two children were born. Mamie is the wife of Laban F. Gifford, an enterprising business man of McLean, and a partner of our subject in business. They have one son, Merritt A., a young man of good business ability, who holds a position with Mr. Aldrich, of McLean. Ella M. is the wife of Willis D. Snow, of Bloomington, and they have three children, Cora, Vera, and Charles.

In early life Mr. Howard was politically a Whig, and cast his first presidential ballot for the last nominee of that party, in 1852, General Winfield Scott. Since the organization of the Republican party, he has advocated its principles and supported the party ticket. He is a member of the Congregational church, of which his wife is also

a member. For many years he has held official position in the church, serving as deacon and church treasurer. He is a man of exemplary habits, of upright character and worth, and is one of the public-spirited citizens of McLean county, and his residence of forty-one years in this state has enabled him to become well known, and wherever known he is greatly esteemed.

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ALEXANDER D. LAWRENCE, a practical farmer and stock raiser, residing on section 5, Funk's Grove township, owns and operates a farm of four hundred acres, located within two miles of the village of McLean. He was born in Clarke county, Ohio, December 22, 1846. The Lawrence family are of English ancestry, and were among the early settlers of New England, from where they moved to different parts of the country. Clark Lawrence, the grandfather of our subject, was a native of New York, who at an early day moved to Green county, Ohio, and there Hiram Lawrence was born in 1816. He grew to manhood in his native county, and there married Lucinda Harper, also a native of Green county, Ohio. They later removed to Clarke county, in the same state, where they remained until 1863, when they came to Illinois, locating in Atlanta, Logan county. In his native state, he learned the trade of carpenter and joiner, which he followed for a time, but usually engaged in farming and in the butcher business. On coming to Illinois he engaged in carpentering in connection with the meat business. The last years of his life were spent in Atlanta, his death occurring in Clinton, while on a visit, February 24, 1897. His wife died some



fifteen years previous, dying August 30, 1882. They were both laid to rest in the Atlanta cemetery.

The early life of our subject was spent in his native county, and his education was received in the common and high schools. On the 10th of October, 1862, he enlisted as a musician in the One Hundred and Tenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, playing the fife and acting as drummer boy. He remained in the service until in February, 1863, when his father secured his discharge and he returned home and accompanied the family to Illinois. He remained at home the greater part of the time after coming to the state for about three years. He was, however, used to looking out for himself, and since the time he was fifteen years old he has made his own way in the world. While he learned the carpenter's trade, he followed it but very little, but being familiar with the meat business from being around his father's establishment, he naturally drifted into it, and opened a shop in McLean. Subsequently he engaged in the business at Farmer City, and still later at Leroy, Illinois, being employed in it in all about fifteen years.

In McLean county, on the 14th of May, 1871, Mr. Lawrence was united in marriage with Miss Josephine Ridgway, who was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, and an adopted daughter of Thomas S. and Frances Ridgway. When a child of three years she was taken by Thomas S. and Frances Ridgway, by whom she was reared and educated, coming with them to McLean county, Illinois, in 1864. She was educated in the schools of Indianapolis and St. Louis. Mr. Ridgway located on the farm where our subject now resides, and there spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in

1891. His wife preceded him one year, dying in 1890.

After returning from Le Roy Mr. Lawrence located in the village of McLean, where he engaged in the stock business, buying and shipping, until 1889, when he took charge of the farm and business connected therewith. Since moving to the farm he has erected one of the best farm residences in the township, and has made other improvements of a substantial character. In addition to general farming he has been engaged in breeding and dealing in stock. For some years he has been breeding and dealing in pure blood Jerseys, and has now on his place over fifty head of that breed, including thirty cows.

To Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence five children have been born: Thomas R. married Chattie Eyestone-Taylor, a native of McLean county. He is assisting in carrying on the home farm. Frances L. is the wife H. M. Cantrell, and they have one son, Cecil Lawrence. They reside in Waynesville, Illinois. Ruby E. and Alder E. are at home. Bertha E. died in early childhood.

Mr. Lawrence is a "true blue" Republican, and cast his first presidential ballot for U. S. Grant in 1868. He has given some attention to local politics, but never with a view of official honors. For six years he was chairman of the Republican central committee of his township, and done all in his power to advance the interests of his party. Fraternally he is a Mason, a member of the blue lodge and Eastern Star, of McLean, Illinois. He is also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, subordinate lodge and Rebecca, of McLean, and of the G. A. R. Post, of McLean, in which he has served as junior commander.



Mrs. Lawrence is a member of the relief corps of the same place, the Eastern Star and the Rebecca lodge. She is also a member of the Presbyterian church. Both are highly respected in the community in which they have so long made their home, and their friends are numerous in McLean and DeWitt counties.

ISAAC WILSON, who is engaged in the livery business in the village of Danvers, dates his residence in McLean county since 1849. He was born in Posey county, Indiana, January 7, 1845, and when but four years of age came with his parents to McLean county. His father, Joseph Wilson, was born in Gallatin, Sumner county, Tennessee, September 23, 1819, and was the son of Thomas and Polly (McCrunnells) Wilson, the former a native of Virginia, and the latter of Tennessee. Thomas Wilson followed the occupation of a farmer both in Tennessee, and after his removal to Posey county, Indiana, in 1822. He was one of the first settlers of that county, and there his family of eleven children were reared—Nancy, James, Sally, William, Polly, Joseph, Thomas, Betsy, Jane and John. One child died in infancy.

Joseph Wilson was but three years of age when he was taken by his parents to Posey county, Indiana, and there he grew to manhood and engaged in farming. In 1842 he married Miss Elizabeth McClure, a native of Indiana, born in 1823, and a daughter of John McClure. By this union were eight children. Melvina married Fred Friday, and died at the age of thirty-five years, leaving one son, Frank. Isaac is the subject of this sketch. Jennie is the wife of Eli Phillips, and they reside in

Danvers, Illinois. Frank died at the age of four years. Susan is the wife of C. Stevens, and they have two children, LeRoy and Edna. They reside in ——— township, McLean county. John married Susan Morrison, and they have four children, Abbie, William, Ella and Myrtle. They reside in Danvers township, of which he is the present assessor. Ophelia is the wife of Benjamin Wilson, and their five children are Ada, Etta, Myra, Jennie and Nina. They reside in Tremont township, Tazewell county. One child died in infancy.

After his marriage Joseph Wilson engaged in farming in Posey county, Indiana, in which he continued until 1849, when he came with his family to McLean county, Illinois, and located in Danvers township, where he first purchased one hundred and sixty acres, to which he added by subsequent purchase until, in 1888, when he removed to the village of Danvers, he had over seven hundred acres of as fine land as can be found in the Prairie state. He has forty acres of his first purchase, for which he paid four dollars per acre, and which has never been broken.

In 1863, Mrs. Elizabeth Wilson departed this life and on the 19th of May, 1870, Joseph Wilson married Miss Susan Dean, a native of Knox county, Ohio, born in 1840, and daughter of Jonathan and Mary (Elwell) Dean, the former born in 1800, and the latter in 1801, both being natives of Baltimore county, Maryland. Jonathan Dean was a blacksmith by trade, but on coming to McLean county, in 1850, he engaged in farming, in which he continued the remainder of his life. Mr. Wilson is one of eight children, of whom six grew to maturity. While residing on his farm, Joseph Wilson gave much attention to stock rais-

ing, and was quite successful. In politics he is a Democrat. Mrs. Wilson is a member of the Presbyterian church.

Isaac Wilson spent his boyhood and youth on the farm in Danvers township, and attended the district schools of the township, usually during the winter months. When twenty-four years of age, in company with Mahlon Culbertson and Robert Danley, he purchased a portable saw mill, and they traveled all over the county, stopping for some months at a time in a place, and continuing to work in McLean county for about two years. They then moved the mill into Tazewell county, within four miles of Pekin, where they sawed several hundred thousand feet of bridge timber for the Big Four railroad, which was then being built.

Mr. Wilson continued in the milling business for about five years, and then sold his interest to Robert K. Jones, and purchased a farm of eighty acres, together with ten acres of timber land, and engaged in farming. On the 14th of December, 1874, he was united in marriage with Miss Eliza E. Howell, a native of McLean county, born September 2, 1854, and daughter of Jacob and Lucy Ann Howell, who were natives of Kentucky, but early settlers of McLean county, locating in Danvers township. Jacob Howell died in 1872, after which his wife married again, her second husband being William Rathburn. She died in 1890.

After his marriage, Mr. Wilson settled on the farm which he had purchased and remained there until 1885, when he went to Kingman county, Kansas, and engaged in the stock business. While there he purchased property in Watertown, and a farm of one hundred and sixty acres about two and a half miles from that place, which

property and land he still owns. In 1892, after a sojourn of seven years in sunny Kansas, he returned to McLean county, and purchasing the livery stable and stock of John Gardner, he has since engaged in that business.

On all national issues, Mr. Wilson votes the Democratic ticket, but in local elections he votes for the man he regards as best qualified for the office, regardless of his political belief. Mrs. Wilson is a member of the Christian church. Both have many friends in Danvers and vicinity, and are worthy of the esteem in which they are held.

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JOHN W. SCOTT has done much toward promoting the commercial activity, advancing the general welfare and securing the material development of Bloomington. As a business man he is energetic, enterprising and always abreast of the times and has been rewarded by an ample competence. With one exception he is now the oldest music dealer of McLean county, and his record for honorable dealing and unassailable methods furnishes an example that is indeed worthy of emulation.

Mr. Scott was born at Long Point, Dewitt county, Illinois, November 5, 1846, a son of John O. and Sarah Frances (Webber) Scott. His father was born near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, in 1808, and with his parents removed to Goshen, Ohio, where his father soon died. At that place John O. Scott completed his education and then devoted his energies to farm work. When a young man he came to Illinois and entered an eighty-acre farm in Dewitt county. While here he met Miss Webber, whose father was one of the early residents of Urbana, Illinois. He had removed to this

state from Kentucky, bringing with him some negro slaves whom he freed after his arrival. It was about the year 1839 that John Scott entered his land in Dewitt county, but for a short time he resided on the Rutledge farm, east of Heyworth. He then spent a limited period in McLean county, after which he built a one-room log house upon his land and began the development of his farm, which he cultivated until 1854, when death ended his labors. He had nearly completed a new residence when called to the home beyond. In early life he was identified with the Presbyterian church, his wife with the Baptist, but in the days of their early residence in central Illinois they united with the Methodist church and became very prominent and active members. The hospitality of their home was always extended to the ministers who visited the neighborhood, and before the erection of a house of worship their residence served as a place of meeting. At the time of his death the father had acquired two hundred acres of good land and upon that farm the mother reared her children. She had a family of seven, but the youngest, Sarah F., died at the age of two years. The others are: Joseph W., Mary J., George W., Elizabeth A., John W. and Martin A. After rearing the children on the homestead farm the mother removed to Leroy, where her death occurred.

In taking up the personal history of John W. Scott we present to our readers the life record of one who is widely and favorably known in this county. He was only two years old when his spine was accidentally injured and he was thus permanently crippled. In the district school he mastered the common English branches of learning, and then engaged in teaching school and

studying music, for which he had special aptitude. He was instructed by the best local teachers of the community, and then entered the Wesleyan College, where he pursued a three-years' classical and musical course. Subsequently he taught both vocal and instrumental music for eleven years and was a most capable instructor. After his marriage he located in Le Roy, where for three years he conducted a musical instrument store, building up an excellent trade. In 1883, in order to enlarge the field of his operations, he came to Bloomington and here established himself in the same line of business in partnership with Fred Andrus, of the Andrus Brothers music firm. That connection, however, was soon dissolved, and he has since been alone in business. He began operation in a small room in the old store building where the Greisheim building now stands, but after a year removed to the Gerken building on Front street, and a month later to Grove street, near Center street. He also spent one year in the Livingston block, on Center street; but for the past eight years has occupied his present commodious quarters at No. 406 North Main street, where he enjoys a large and constantly increasing business. With one exception he is the oldest music man in Bloomington in years of continuous connection with the business, and his sales have extended throughout this and adjoining counties. He carries an excellent line of pianos, organs and other musical instruments, and his thorough understanding and appreciation of the art of music enables him to intelligently direct his patrons in their purchases. He has also added a sewing machine department to his store and enjoys a good trade in that line.



In October, 1878, Mr. Scott wedded Miss Mary A. Arbuckle, a daughter of Robert O. and Charlotte (Freeman) Arbuckle, of Oldtown, which place was then known as the Stumptown settlement. He removed from Pennsylvania to Guernsey county, Ohio, where occurred the birth of Mrs. Scott, who, at the age of four years, was brought by her parents to McLean county, where her father engaged in farming. He died March 30, 1891. His wife is yet living. In September, 1897, they took up their abode in the pleasant home at No. 1210 East Grove street, where they have a commodious and beautiful dwelling in what is one of the best residence portions of the city. They have two sons: Pearl Eugene, who is associated with his father in business, and Lloyd Emerson, who is now in the Illinois Wesleyan University. Both have marked musical taste and show decided skill in evoking sweetest melody from stringed instruments. The cultured taste of the parents in this direction also renders the Scott household one of the leading musical centers of the city, and in many country districts they have given delightful concerts and recitals.

In his political views Mr. Scott is a staunch Republican, but has never been a candidate for office, though often solicited to accept nomination. His tastes are domestic, and this has led him to refrain from joining musical or fraternal organizations, as he finds his greatest delights among his friends at his own fireside. He has traveled considerably, and on March 29, 1898, boarded a "Big Four" train for Leroy, but when nearing Kickapoo creek, three miles out, the tender, from some unknown cause, jumped the track. The engineer saw that to stop would be to plunge the train over the trestle into the creek; so putting on a

full head of steam, he pushed ahead. As soon as all were over, the cars, going at full rate of speed, toppled over down a fifteen-foot embankment, tearing up the track and causing great confusion and dismay among the passengers. Mr. Scott grasped the seat ahead of him and held on firmly, and when the coach rested on the solid earth he was left hanging there. He was only slightly wounded, but forty people were seriously hurt, though none fatally so. The shock which he sustained nervously, however, naturally makes him dread travel by rail. When a boy, playing with his comrades on a straw stack on the side of a hill, he fell down a steep embankment and was picked up for dead, but finally revived. Thus he has met many mishaps which would have discouraged if not utterly disheartened many men, but his resolute spirit and unconquerable will has enabled him to put aside all difficulties and in the business world gain marked success. He is emphatically a man of enterprise, positive character, energy, strict integrity and liberal views, and is thoroughly identified in feeling with the growth and prosperity of his city and state. He and his family are members of the First Methodist Episcopal church, and his wife takes a very active part in the work of the societies connected therewith, while he contributes most generously to the support of the church.

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HON. SAMUEL B. KINSEY, who resides on section 12, Mt. Hope township, is living a retired life, enjoying the fruits of a well spent life. He was born in Belmont county, Ohio, September 19, 1824, and in his native state grew to manhood. His father, John Kinsey, was a native of



North Carolina, as was also his grandfather, Christopher Kinsey. The latter was one of the very early settlers of Ohio, and in the latter state John Kinsey grew to manhood, and in Highland county was united in marriage with Miss Eleanor Bevan, a native of Virginia, and daughter of Stacey Evans, also a native of Virginia, and an early settler of Ohio. After his marriage he located in Belmont county, but later returned to Highland county, and still later to Clinton county, in the same state. He was a carpenter and joiner by trade, and followed that occupation during his active life.

The subject of this speech spent the greater part of his boyhood and youth in Clinton county, Ohio, but later lived in Greene county, the same state. He had but common school advantages, and is mostly self-educated since arriving at mature years. In 1843, when but nineteen years of age, he came to Illinois with his parents, who first located in Logan county, where his father worked at his trade in the village of Delavan, until his death in 1852.

On coming to Illinois, Mr. Kinsey engaged in teaching for several winters, and during the summer months engaged in farming. He was married in Logan county in 1848, to Miss Mary Stephens, who was born in Logan county, a daughter of Adam Stephens, who was a native of Ohio, but who came to Illinois in 1829, locating in Logan county. By this union four children were born. Jarvis H. is married and resides in the village of McLean. He has one daughter, Vina. Nathan is married and also resides in McLean. He is a well educated man, and a teacher by profession. Effie married Terah Farnsworth, who is now deceased. She makes her home with her father, and has two daughter, Ilma and

Vere. The youngest daughter, Maude, lives at home.

After his marriage Mr. Kinsey engaged in farming in Logan county, while at the same time he engaged in teaching during the winter months. In the spring of 1852 he came to McLean county and entered a tract of one hundred and sixty acres on section 12, town 21, Mt. Hope township, on which he located, and commenced the development of a fine farm. Erecting a small frame house, made of rough lumber, he made that his home for several years, while otherwise improving the place. He later built a neat and substantial residence, erected a good barn and other outbuildings, and in due time had one of the best farm in the township. To his original farm he added one hundred and sixty acres, which he improved, but has since disposed of it. In addition to his home farm, he owns a tract of timber land in Logan county. He commenced life in quite limited circumstances, but by his industry and frugality, he has acquired a competency. His good wife, who was to him a most faithful and devoted wife and companion, was called to her final rest in May, 1896, and her remains were laid away in the Roach cemetery, in Logan county.

In early Mr. Kinsey was an old line Whig, as was his father before him. He continued to vote with that party as long as it was in existence, its principles being dear to his heart, and for its leaders he had the highest regard and admiration. On the birth of the Republican party, he espoused its principles, being naturally an anti-slavery man, and for its first presidential candidate, General John C. Fremont, he cast his ballot. He has continued to be a stanch Republican to the present time, and has always taken an active interest in party affairs. His first offi-

cial position was while living in Logan county, being elected and serving two terms as assessor and as county treasurer of Logan county, the two offices being combined. On his removal to McLean county he was first elected township school trustee, and was the first assessor of Mt. Hope township on its organization. He was next elected a member of the county board of supervisors, and served about two years or until his enlistment in the service of his country in the civil war.

In August, 1862, Mr. Kinsey enlisted in Company A, One Hundred and Seventeenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was chosen as captain by his comrades, and duly commissioned as such. With his regiment he went first to Memphis, Tennessee, and in that vicinity was stationed for nearly two years, during which time he participated in several skirmishes, and was in the battle near Meridian, Mississippi. He was later with General Banks in the Red river campaign, and was in the battle of Pleasant Hill. On account of physical disability, he resigned from the service and was discharged late in 1864.

Returning to his home, Captain Kinsey resumed his farming, and was soon afterward elected supervisor, and by re-election, served as a member of the board for about ten years, making an efficient and valuable member, and being on most of the important committees. In 1885, he was elected a member of the legislature, and served through that long term in which General Logan and Colonel Morrison was pitted against each other as candidates for United States senator, and which after a long struggle resulted in the election of Logan. In 1887 he was re-elected to the legislature. During his service of two terms as a mem-

ber of the legislature, Captain Kinsey discharged his duties in a conscientious and consistent manner, and to the satisfaction of his constituents. In the various county, congressional and state conventions of his party he has frequently been sent as a delegate, and his influence has always been felt on the side of right. Fraternally, the Captain is a member of McLean Lodge, No.—, A. F. & A. M., and of the chapter and commandery of Bloomington. He is also a member of the G. A. R. post at McLean. For fifty-six years he has been a resident of Illinois, and in all that time he has discharged his duties of citizenship in a faithful manner, with credit to himself, and for the general good of his friends and neighbors, among whom he has always been held in high esteem, as is evidenced by his continual election to official positions.

OLIVER H. BUCK is the owner of a well improved farm of eighty acres on section 7, Funk's Grove township, and which lies about three miles east of the village of McLean. He was born in Switzerland county, Indiana, June 19, 1848, and is the son of Judson Buck, a native of New York, born in 1808, and a grandson of William Sherman Buck, also a native of New York, who in a very early day moved to Ohio, and lived on the General Harrison farm a number of years. On that farm Judson Buck spent his boyhood and youth, and from which he left, a young man, going to Switzerland county, Indiana, where he married Miss Hannah Johnston, a native of New York, but who was reared in Indiana. In his youth he learned the blacksmith trade, which he followed in connection with farming. With a view of bettering his con-

dition in life, with his family he left Indiana, and driving through with teams, in 1850, located on the north line of DeWitt county, purchasing the farm known as the old Bash farm. There he spent the remainder of his life, engaged in agricultural pursuits, until his death, July 18, 1880. His wife passed away about 1878.

Oliver H. Buck was nine years of age when his parents settled on the farm in DeWitt county, and there he grew to manhood, remaining with his father until after reaching man's estate. He was married in DeWitt county, December 16, 1869, to Miss Hannah Hammitt, who was born and reared on the farm where she was married. Her father, James W. Hammitt, was a native of Morgan county, Ohio, and came to Illinois in boyhood, and later married Miss Susan Brock. He is yet living at the age of eighty-two years, and is one of the substantial farmers of DeWitt county. To Mr. and Mrs. Buck five children were born. Oscar O., married, now resides in Long Pine, Nebraska, where he is engaged in business. Cora A., who was married June 7, 1899, to George H. Youngman, of McLean. James S., Blanche F. and Karl S. are also at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Buck commenced their domestic life on the old home farm in DeWitt county, where they remained some five or six years. Mr. Buck then purchased the farm where they yet reside, to which they at once removed. Since coming to the farm he has set out shade and ornamental trees, built a neat dwelling and good barn, and made many substantial improvements. In addition to a general line of farming, he gives special attention to stock raising, the raising of small fruit and poultry, and the operation of a milk and butter dairy.

Politically Mr. Buck is a life-long Republican. He first voted in 1864 for Abraham Lincoln, and from that time to the present has invariably voted the Republican ticket. He has taken quite an active part in local politics, and has often served as a delegate in the various conventions of his party. Some years ago he was elected and served two years as assessor of his township, and after an interval was again elected, and by re-election is now serving his third year. He has a good idea of valuations of both personal property and real estate, and gives good satisfaction in the discharge of the duties of the office. He believes in good schools, and to that end has served on the school board, and as clerk of the district. A practical farmer, a good business man, and one having the best interests of his adopted county and state at heart, he is well known and has many friends in DeWitt and McLean counties.

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**W**ILLIAM PAUL, a leading banker and prominent financier of McLean county, Illinois, is now president of the Stanford State Bank, of Stanford, and a director of the Corn Belt Bank, of Bloomington. Genuine success is not likely to be the result of mere chance or fortune, but is something to be labored for and sought out with consecutive effort. Ours is a utilitarian age and the life of every successful man bears its lessons, and as told in contemporary narration, perhaps is productive of the greatest good. Mr. Paul has, through his own well-directed efforts, attained a position of prominence in the business world and his success in life may be attributed to self-reliance, perseverance, energy and honesty.

A native of Ohio, Mr. Paul was born in



Martinsburg, Clay township, Knox county, April 29, 1827, and is a son of James and Sarah (Bane) Paul, who were both born near Amity, Washington county, Pennsylvania, the former March 12, 1803, the latter May 3, 1805. In the county of his nativity the father grew to manhood, and in October, 1823, went to Knox county, Ohio, to inspect some land which his father had purchased there but had never seen. He located upon the place and after clearing away a portion of the heavy timber and erecting a house thereon, he returned to Pennsylvania, in July or August, 1824, and was there married. With his bride he then returned to the home he had prepared for her in Ohio, making the journey in a wagon drawn by four horses, and taking with them what household furniture they could carry. There Mr. Paul owned and operated a section of land, and as one of the prominent citizens of his community he was called upon to fill different township offices, being elected justice of the peace in 1839, and serving as such for six years. The last thirty years of his life were spent in Morrow county, Ohio, where he died April 20, 1897, at the age of ninety-four, and his wife departed this life November 7, 1892, at the age of eighty-seven years. Both were consistent members of the Christian church, and highly esteemed by all who knew them. In their family were seven children, of whom our subject is the second in order of birth and oldest son, and five of the number are still living. William Paul, the paternal grandfather of our subject, was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, and spent his entire life near his birthplace. He was an extensive and prominent farmer and besides his property in that state he owned western lands. His father, James Paul, the great-grandfather of

our subject, was of old Scotch-Irish stock, and emigrated to this country from the north of Ireland about 1770, locating in Washington county, Pennsylvania. James and Anna (Peck) Bane, our subject's paternal grandparents, were of Scotch and English extraction, and made their home on a farm near Amity, Washington county, Pennsylvania.

William Paul, of this sketch, received but a limited common-school education, but he made the most of his advantages, and by subsequent reading and observation has gained a broad general knowledge. He remained under the parental roof or near his old home in Ohio, until 1851, when he came to Hudson, McLean county, Illinois, where he spent one winter. The following spring he started with a flock of sheep from Washington county, Pennsylvania, in the latter part of April and in traveling five hundred and fifty miles almost directly west, he crossed but two railroads. He wintered the sheep at Hudson and in the spring moved to Twin Grove, five miles west of Bloomington, where he purchased land and resided for six years. He then went south to the wilds of Texas and during his stay there saw a great deal of border life, returning north March 6, 1861, just before the outbreak of the civil war.

Locating in Danvers township, McLean county, Mr. Paul was married there, October 13, 1861, to Miss Louisa Harrison, who was born in Ohio but spent six years of her childhood in northwestern Missouri. Her father, Abraham Harrison, came to this county from Ohio, the same season as our subject, and her grandfather, David Harrison, was a pioneer of Knox county, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Paul have three children: Belle, now the wife of J. R. Wright, of Stanford, by whom she has four children,



Ada, Leta, Ralph and Dewey; Nannie, at home; and Sadie, wife of Dr. A. E. Rogers, of Bloomington, by whom she has one son, Byron S.

Mr. Paul purchased a farm of four hundred acres in Danvers township and successfully engaged in raising and feeding stock for some years, and even after his removal to the village of Stanford, in 1882, he continued to engage in agricultural pursuits, owning and operating two farms, aggregating two hundred and eighty acres. While living in the country he served as highway commissioner of his township. In 1889 he bought an interest in a general store in Stanford, and although he has had one or two partners he is now alone in business and enjoys an excellent trade. About 1883 he started in the coal and lumber business, but at the end of three years sold out to his partner. Prior to this he had become interested in the banking business, assisting in organizing the Stanford State Bank in 1891, which has a capital of thirty thousand dollars, a surplus of nine thousand, and has been paying dividends for some years. The corporation bought the block and fixtures of an old private bank, and has done a successful general banking business from the start. Mr. Paul was elected its first president and one of the board of directors, which positions he is still filling, and the success of the bank is certainly due in a large measure to him and attests his eminent and pronounced ability as a financier. Reared in the Democratic party, Mr. Paul continued one of its supporters until the civil war, since which time he has usually affiliated either with the Republicans or Prohibitionists. He has never been an aspirant for office, though he has served on the village board and for a short time was

justice of the peace, but resigned the latter position before the expiration of his term. He and his wife are faithful members of the Christian church, and their beautiful and well kept home in Stanford is the center of a cultured society circle. Mr. Paul has traveled quite extensively over the west and south, and has gained an excellent knowledge of places, men and affairs, which only travel can bring.

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ROSS P. DYE, who is one of the active and enterprising farmers of McLean county, resides on a farm of two hundred and forty acres on section 12, Mt. Hope township, which has been his home for the past thirty years. He was born in Mason county, Kentucky, February 3, 1839, and his parents dying when he was quite young, he was taken by an uncle with whom he remained until he was fifteen years old, during which time he received a common-school education. In company with an older brother he then came to Illinois, his brother locating near Paris, Logan county, where he rented a farm and raised two crops. In 1861 our subject returned to Kentucky and worked on a farm for an uncle, who was engaged principally in raising tobacco. He continued with this uncle until the close of the war, and in 1865 came to McLean county, bringing with him a span of mares from Cincinnati for his brother, who had removed to this county.

Returning to Kentucky, in November, 1865, Mr. Dye was united in marriage with Miss Fanny Biggars, a native of Mason county, that state, and who was reared on a farm near the county seat. In 1869, with his wife he came to Illinois, and renting a

house in Atlanta, he worked on a farm during the summer, and in the fall purchased a tract of eighty acres in Mt. Hope township, McLean county, adjoining his present farm. Moving to the place he commenced its improvement, in the meantime renting other improved lands, and engaged extensively in agricultural pursuits. He later built a fair house, and a nice small barn, and in due time purchased one hundred and sixty acres adjoining his eighty, giving him a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres. To his new purchase he removed with his family, converted the house into a two-story structure, and made many other valuable improvements to the place. The two hundred and forty acres were not sufficient for his purposes, and he usually has rented more land, usually cultivating from four to five hundred acres each year. In addition to the raising of the various cereals, he has given much attention to stock, making a specialty of hogs, but also breeding and dealing in Norman and road horses, in which line for some years he met with unqualified success. In 1896 he formed a business partnership with his son-in-law, C. C. Darnall, and engaged in the hardware trade in McLean, in which he continued until the spring of 1899, when he sold his interest that he might give his undivided attention to his farming interests. While in the business he did a fairly profitable business.

Mr. and Mrs. Dye have five children, two sons and three daughters. Thurman P. is married and is assisting in carrying on the home farm. Minnie is the wife of C. C. Darnall, of McLean. Lilly is the wife of Ewing Trott. George W. and Flossie are yet at home. The latter has decided music ability, and is engaged in teaching music. Two sons were lost in early childhood, Robert at the age of

three years, and Willie, at the age of one year. They also lost an infant daughter.

Politically Mr. Dye is a life-long Democrat, his first presidential ballot being cast for Stephen A. Douglas. While voting his party ticket in national and state elections, in local contests he is thoroughly independent, voting for the one he considers the best man. He is first of all a farmer, and among those who know him he is regarded as one who thoroughly understands his business, which is attested by the success that has crowned his efforts since coming to McLean county in 1869. To his farming interests he prefers to give his time and attention, leaving to others the honors and emoluments of public affairs.

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WILLIAM REEVES, who owns and operates a farm of two hundred and sixty-six acres on section 7, Funk's Grove township, within three miles of the village of McLean, came to the county in 1854. He was born in Hamilton county, Ohio, near Cincinnati, August 8, 1836, and there spent his boyhood and youth, receiving a very limited education in the public schools. When a boy of twelve years he was placed on the saddle horse of a team, usually of four and six horses, and for several years was engaged in hauling freight from Cincinnati to Harrison, Ohio. In 1854, his father, Daniel Reeves, decided on coming to Illinois, and with a four horse team they drove through to DeWitt county, locating on the northern line of that county on Prairie Creek, purchasing two hundred and sixty-six acres, an improved farm. He there remained for several years, and leaving the farm he went to Atlanta, Logan county, where he lived but a short time when he was

given charge of the poor farm of the county, as superintendent. While still on the farm his death occurred in 1870, at the age of sixty-four years.

The subject of this sketch came to Illinois with his parents, and remained on the farm, assisting his father in its cultivation until after he attained his majority. He was married in DeWitt county, in 1859, to Miss Amanda Buck, who was born in Switzerland county, Indiana, and who came with her father, Judson Buck, to Illinois, in 1850. By this marriage were four children. Judson B. is married and is engaged in farming in Funk's Grove township. Thomas Ervin is married and is also engaged in farming in Funk's Grove township. One daughter died in infancy. Kerry D. is a young man, and resides at home.

After marriage, Mr. Reeves located on a farm near Wapella, DeWitt county, purchasing a piece of raw brush land which he proceeded to clear and cultivate. On that farm he raised two crops, and then sold at a nice advance over the purchase price. In partnership with his brother-in-law, J. J. Buck, he next purchased eighty acres of land in the northern part of DeWitt county, which after working one season, they divided. On his forty acres Mr. Reeves built a residence and proceeded to cultivate the land. In due time he purchased thirty-three acres adjoining, and there continued for fifteen years, leaving the farm in good condition, with a neat residence, good barn, and the farm under a high state of cultivation. In 1879 he traded that farm for one hundred and sixty acres of his present farm, paying cash difference. Moving to the farm, he has here since continued to reside, engaged in general farming, and has never doubted the wisdom of his choice of a

home. In 1881 he purchased forty acres adjoining his farm, and in 1892 bought a tract of seventy-six acres just across the road. The place was fairly well improved when he moved to it, but in the twenty years that he has lived here, other improvements have been made increasing materially the value of the farm.

The first presidential ballot of Mr. Reeves was cast for the "Little Giant," Stephen A. Douglas, while his last one was cast in 1896 for William McKinley. While residing in DeWitt county, he served as constable and school director, and in 1887 he was first elected justice of the peace in Funk's Grove township, and by re-election has served for twelve years. Fraternally, he is a charter member of McLean Lodge, I. O. O. F., in which he has passed all the chairs, being now past grand. He is also a member of the United Workmen, of Atlanta, Illinois. While not always a citizen, but always residing near the border line of McLean county, Mr. Reeves has spent here forty-five years of his life. He has many friends and acquaintances in Logan, DeWitt and McLean counties, and is a man worthy the esteem in which he is held. He is a good farmer, a worthy citizen, one always willing to give a helping hand to every worthy enterprise.

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JAMES J. LOAR, M. D. June 12, 1894, there passed away at his home in Bloomington a well-beloved physician, whose many years of faithful toil in his profession made his name a household word in the community. He was a man whose death was felt as a loss among all classes, and the following brief account of one so esteemed will be read with unusual interest:



The Doctor was born in Greene county, Pennsylvania, February 9, 1830, a son of John Loar, an old and honored resident of that county. There our subject passed the first twenty years of his life, and he attended school in both Greene and Fayette counties, Pennsylvania. In the latter county he commenced reading medicine with his brother, Dr. Appolos Loar, and began practice in Pennsville. While there he was married, in 1850, to Miss Maria Stoffer, a daughter of Abram and Mary (Newcomber) Stoffer, who were of Pennsylvania German ancestry. His father was a prominent farmer in his community and was honored with a number of township offices. Religiously he was a member of the Mennonite church. His entire life was passed in the old Keystone state.

After three or four years spent in Pennsville, Doctor Loar removed to Mt. Pleasant, Fayette county, where he soon built up a good practice, and later he successfully followed his chosen calling in Mt. Vernon, Ohio, for five years. Soon after his marriage he graduated from a medical college of Cincinnati, Ohio, and was always a close student of his profession. In 1871 he came to Bloomington when it was still a small place, and as his skill and ability were soon widely recognized it was not long before he was at the head of a large and lucrative practice here, which he continued to enjoy until called from this life. During almost his entire residence in Bloomington, he made his home at No. 602 East Front street.

To Doctor and Mrs. Loar were born five children, one son and four daughters, namely: Abram, a druggist, of Bloomington; Mrs. Hettie Bonnett, now a widow, of Bloomington, who has two sons, James and

Yons; Emma, who married Delmar Darrah, and died, leaving one daughter, Lorraine; Lucy, who is with her mother; and Sarah, who married Doctor Sitherwood, and died, leaving two children, Grace and Doane.

Socially the Doctor was an honored member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Masonic fraternity. He made friends wherever he went, and it is safe to say that no citizen of Bloomington was held in higher respect or esteem. He was an earnest and consistent member of the Christian church, to which his family belong, and was faithful to his church, to his country and to his friends, while in his home he was a most exemplary husband and father.

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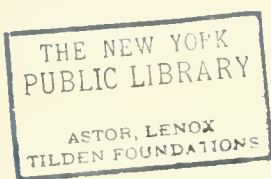
MRS. ELIZA STANSBURY, who now makes her home in the city of Bloomington, is the eldest daughter of Matthew Robb, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume, and to which the reader's attention is called. She was born in Posey county, Indiana, May 30, 1823, and was but one year old when she came with her parents to Logan county, Illinois, and was but four years old when they moved to McLean county and located in Stout's Grove, the site of the present village of Danvers, which was laid out on her father's farm. She remembers being told how they made the journey in a two-horse wagon, and that when her father made his purchase of one hundred and sixty acres of land he had but twenty-five cents left.

In the pioneer subscription schools of McLean county, Eliza Robb obtained her education, her father paying so much per quarter for her tuition. She remained at





MRS. E. J. STANSBURY.



home until her marriage, May 13, 1841, to E. E. Matthews, a native of New York, and son of Asel and Hope Matthews, also natives of New York, who located in La-Porte county, Indiana, at a very early day. After their marriage they located on a farm four miles north of Danvers, where Mr. Matthews followed his trade of brick mason in connection with farming. They later returned to Stout's Grove, McLean county, and Mr. Matthews engaged in farming in connection with his trade, usually hiring the farm work done, while he engaged at his trade.

With the desire to help her husband, Mrs. Matthews spent much of her time in spinning and weaving, and then selling the cloth. She also knit socks, which she sold, and thus added to their income. Her husband was very much opposed to her working, believing that it was the husband's place to provide for his family. Before their removal to Green Lake county, Wisconsin, where he engaged in the mercantile business for about five years, when she was away from home, he sold her loom and she was forced to quit. He died August 21, 1866. In politics he was a Republican, and religiously he was a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian church. He was quite a worker in the Sunday school and was a teacher for many years.

On the 23d of April, 1869, Mrs. Matthews again married, her second husband being Abram Stansbury, a native of Tennessee, who was born June 19, 1807. He was of German and Welsh parentage, and came to Illinois between 1830 and 1832. For some years he was engaged in carrying the mail between Peoria, then called Fort Clarke, and Eugene, on horseback. At that time there were no bridges across the

streams, and he was often compelled to swim them with the mail bags tied to his back. He often met Indians, but they never molested him. Mr. Stansbury was married, his first union being with Miss Mary Cheney, by whom he had two children. After his marriage to Mrs. Matthews, he engaged in buying and selling stock, a business in which he continued until within a few years of his death. He died August 19, 1877. He was a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and died in the faith.

Since the death of her husband, Mrs. Stansbury has made her home in Bloomington, where she is well known and where she has many friends. She is a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian church, and in her younger days was quite active in church and Sunday school work.

LEONARD H. BLISS, an esteemed citizen of Bloomington, now actively connected with the business interests of the city, is known throughout this entire country, in Canada, and in many of the leading cities of Europe, in connection with bicycling, being the heaviest man who ever rode a wheel. McLean county has always been his home, and his birth occurred in Blue Mound township, May 4, 1865, his parents being Elijah C. and Lucy A. (Harmon) Bliss. His father is a native of Rehoboth, Massachusetts, his mother of Springfield, that state, and both are representatives of old New England families. Coming to the west in early life, they were married in St. Louis, Missouri. Mr. Bliss is a carpenter by trade, but after working in the railroad shops in the Island of Cuba for two years he returned to the United States, worked in Wisconsin for a time, then

went to St. Louis, where he was married, and then removed to Morgan county, Illinois; began farming; remained there a few years, and then came to McLean county, in 1862, and began farming in Blue Mound township. The following year he purchased a farm and continued its cultivation and improvement until 1884, when he put aside agricultural pursuits, and removed to Bloomington. He has served as school director, but has held no other offices, preferring to devote his energies to his business interests. In politics he is a Republican, and in his religious faith is a Presbyterian, belonging to the Second Presbyterian church of Bloomington. In his family are two sons, Herbert and Leonard, and one daughter, Mary, who died at the age of ten years.

The subject of this review acquired his preliminary education in the district schools, and later spent one year as a student in the State Normal, and one year in the Illinois Wesleyan University, in the commercial course. Thus fitted for the practical duties of life, he entered upon his business career as a commercial traveler for the Chisholm Gray Company, wholesale commission merchants, with whom he remained for a number of years, meeting with excellent success in his work. In May, 1895, however, he began bicycle riding, and soon took that up as a profession, in connection with the sale of wheels. He was always a large child, and when only six years old weighed one hundred and fifty pounds. At the age of seventeen he was six feet five and a half inches tall, and had grown in weight correspondingly. In 1898 he weighed five hundred and fifty-five pounds, which gave him the distinction of being the largest man in the country at that time. He was therefore the heaviest bicycle rider, and his success in that line lead

many other people to engage in wheeling. On severing his connection with the Chisholm Gray Company he became connected with the America Cycle Manufacturing Company, of Chicago, as a rider and salesman, and represented that house for three years, traveling through the United States and Canada. He also spent six months as their representative abroad, visiting the principal cities of Europe as well as all the jobbing centers of this country. He was very successful in introducing wheels and also made some very creditable racing records. He has a record of a half mile in 1:42, and he won a gold bicycle medal as first prize at the Tetotum sports, held at Stanford Hill, London, August 3, 1896. It was the day known as "bank holiday," and the event was an international contest between "the American giant and the English midget," Mr. Bliss winning in the contest.

In 1898 he returned to Bloomington and has since been engaged in the manufacture of patent medicines as a member of the firm of C. B. Castle & Company and the representative in the sales department. They manufacture the Faloon remedies, first made by Dr. Faloon in 1840, since which time they have been on the market, having a large sale through Illinois and Iowa. These include the Faloon instant relief, Faloon rosinweed balsam, Faloon tonic and Faloon diarrhoea specific. This enterprise with which Mr. Bliss is now connected is proving a profitable one, and at the head of the sales department he is doing much to increase the success of the house.

Socially he is a representative of Bloomington Lodge No. 161, K. P. He attends the First Methodist Episcopal church, and has many warm friends throughout the community in which the greater part of his life



has been passed. He has, however, formed many friendships throughout the entire country, and his genial disposition renders him an agreeable companion.

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**W**ILLIAM H. H. ROSS, who is now living a retired life in the village of McLean, was for years one of the most enterprising farmers of McLean county. He was born in Mt. Hope township, May 30, 1840, and in Funk's Grove and Mt. Hope township has spent his entire life. His father, John W. Ross, was a native of Indiana, and came to this county when a young man, here joining some Indiana friends who had preceded him. Soon after his arrival he married Miss Nancy Funk, daughter of John Funk, who was one of the first settlers of McLean county, and they became the parents of seven children, of whom four are yet living: William H. H., the subject of this sketch; John, who resides in McLean; Mrs. Mary Nichols, of Mt. Hope township; and Mrs. Margaret Brazell, who resides in California. After residing in Mt. Hope township for some years, John W. Ross moved to Dale township, where he opened up a farm and there resided until his death, in 1851. His wife survived him a few years, dying in 1861.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood on the home farm and in the schools of the county received a common-school education. He was married February 13, 1860, to Miss Palma Ann Price, a native of Page county, Virginia, and daughter of William and Mary (Decker) Price, also natives of the same state. In about 1846 William Price came with his family to McLean county and located in Dale township, where the last years of his life were spent.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Ross located in Dale township, where he rented a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, which he farmed for three years. He then moved to Funk's Grove township and rented the George Funk farm, on which he resided for eighteen years. He then purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres adjoining the Funk farm, to which he removed, but carried on both farms a number of years more. Giving up the Funk farm he carried on his own farm until 1898, when he rented out the place and moved to the village of McLean, where he has since lived a retired life. While on the farm Mr. Ross gave special attention to stock raising, and for some years raised and shipped from two hundred to three hundred head of cattle annually, together with many head of hogs. He was regarded as one of the best farmers and stock raisers in the county.

To Mr. and Mrs. Ross four children were born. Roxanna Belle is the wife of William Richardson, a farmer, residing near Ellsworth, Illinois. Charles L. married Miss Rebecca Stubblefield, and they reside in Mt. Hope township, where he is engaged in farming. Katie is the wife of George W. Halane, of Allin township. Lulu May is the wife of Charles Tyner, of Monroe township. There are now five grandchildren in the family. Mrs. Richardson has one daughter, Allie May. Charles F. has two daughters, Lottie Roxana and Jessie. Mrs. Halane has one daughter, Lydia. Mrs. Tyner has one son, Herbert Ross.

The first presidential vote cast by Mr. Ross was in 1864, when he voted for Abraham Lincoln for his second term. Since that time he has voted for each nominee of the Republican party for president up to the present time. He has never wanted

public office, but served some years as commissioner of highways, and having an interest in the public schools, he served for about ten years as a member of the school board.

As already stated, Mr. Ross has been a life-long resident of McLean county, and is to-day the oldest living settler of Mt. Hope township, born within its boundaries. He has helped develop the county, and can look back with pride to the years of toil in which he was engaged, and have the satisfaction of knowing that his labors were not altogether in vain, but that by his own industry, assisted by his good wife, he has been enabled to lay by enough to keep them comfortably during the remainder of their lives. They are both held in the highest esteem by all who know them.

**C**HARLES A. PRICE. Much of the civilization of the country has come from the Teutonic race. Continually moving westward, they have taken with them the enterprise and advancement of their eastern homes and have become valued and useful citizens of various localities. In this country especially have they demonstrated their power to adapt themselves to new circumstances, retaining at the same time their progressiveness and energy, and have become loyal and devoted citizens, true to the interests of their adopted country.

Among Bloomington's most honored and highly-respected citizens who have come from the German fatherland is Charles A. Price, who was born in Ragnit, Prussia, October 28, 1825, and is a son of Frederick and Minnie (Reinke) Price, also natives of Ragnit, where they spent their entire lives. The father followed the trade of wood turn-

ing. Like his two brothers, our subject was reared and educated in his native town, and having learned wood turning, he followed that trade there until over twenty-five years of age.

In 1851 Mr. Price came to the United States, landing in New York September 6. He proceeded at once to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, but, not finding employment there, he went to LaPorte, Indiana. In the lumber woods near the latter city he was employed in a sawmill and turning shop for one winter, during which time he began to learn the English language, with which he was previously unfamiliar. He first came to Bloomington in 1853, but after a short time spent here he went to Iowa, where he remained two years, being most of the time in Muscatine. Returning to Bloomington in 1855, he again entered the employ of Mr. Parkes, in whose mills in Tazewell county, Illinois, he had previously worked. Later he was with Hayes, Evans & Co. until 1861, when he started in business for himself at the corner of West and Market streets, where he successfully carried on operations until 1878. Being considered one of the best turners in the city, he enjoyed an excellent trade and occupied a good position in business circles. In 1878 he retired from active labor and has since given his attention only to his investments, which have also proved quite profitable. He bought a fine lot, ninety by one hundred and twenty feet, at the corner of Front and Gridley streets, which is now very valuable, and here has a good home. He has also built two brick blocks on West Chestnut street, and at different times has owned four good farms, which he has sold at a profit.

On the 14th of June, 1856, Mr. Price

married Miss Johanetta Jung, of Bloomington, who was born in the grand duchy of Hesse, Germany, and they have become the parents of three children, namely: Charles, who is married and is connected with his brother, Frederick W., in the clothing business in St. Cloud, Minnesota; Minnie E., wife of Henry Behr, of the West Side, Bloomington, by whom she has four children, Carl, Walter, Lottie and Lincoln; and Frederick W., who is married and has three children: Lottie, Clarence and Helen.

Mr. Price was one of the early members of the Turners society and the German school societies of Bloomington. He belongs to that class of men whom the world terms self-made, for coming to this country with only a twenty-dollar gold piece and a little change, he has conquered all the obstacles in his path to success, and has not only secured for himself a handsome competence, but by his efforts has materially advanced the interests of the community with which he is associated. His record is one that any young man may read with advantage, as in early life he worked for from seventy-five cents to a dollar and a quarter per day, but has been able to live retired for twenty-one years through his own well-directed efforts. Mr. Price has for many years been a staunch Republican.

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**HON. EDWARD STUBBLEFIELD,** whose home is on section 3, Mt. Hope township, has throughout life been prominently identified with the agricultural and political interests of this county, and enjoys the highest respect of his fellow citizens by reason of strict integrity, true manhood and intellectual worth. His devotion to the public welfare has made him a valued factor

in public life, and he has been honored by his community with a number of important official positions.

A native of McLean county, Mr. Stubblefield was born in Funks Grove township, August 15, 1834, and is a worthy representative of one of its most prominent pioneer families, being a son of Robert and Dorothy (Funk) Stubblefield. The mother was a daughter of Adam Funk and a sister of Isaac, Jesse and Jacob Funk, the first settlers of this county, having located here in December, 1824. The father of our subject was a native of Halifax county, Virginia, and a son of Edward Stubblefield, who was also born in the Old Dominion. The former grew to manhood in his native state but was married in Ohio, and he too came to this county in December, 1824. He took up several hundred acres of government land in Funks Grove township and there made his home throughout the remainder of his life. He was twice married, his first wife being a sister of the mother of our subject, and by that union he had four children, two sons and two daughters. There were nine children, seven sons and two daughters, by the second union, of whom Edward is the sixth in order of birth.

The knowledge that our subject acquired by attending the public schools of the county during his boyhood has been greatly supplemented by reading and observation in later years. In Bloomington, he was married, September 17, 1856, to Miss Eliza Fossett, a native of Ohio, who was about twelve years of age when brought to this county by her father, Lewis Fossett, in 1850. The children born to them are Anna, now the wife of S. R. Sterling, of McLean; Marion L., a substantial farmer of Mt. Hope township; Emma J., wife of David Alexander,



of the same township; and Lincoln Wayne, at home. They also have six grandchildren.

After his marriage Mr. Stubblefield located upon a part of his present farm, his first home being a little board house, sixteen feet square. He at once turned his attention to the improvement and cultivation of his land, breaking the wild prairie with five yoke of oxen. To his original tract of one hundred and sixty acres he has added from time to time until he now has over six hundred acres in the home farm. It is valuable and highly improved land, under excellent cultivation and well improved with good buildings, including a commodious two-story residence. Mr. Stubblefield also owns two hundred acres of land elsewhere in the county, and is a stockholder and director of the Peoples Bank of Atlanta, which he assisted in organizing. He commenced life for himself with very little and his success is due entirely to his well-directed and energetic efforts. He is a good business man and has always made the best use of his opportunities in life.

As a Republican Mr. Stubblefield has ever taken an active and prominent part in local politics, and cast his first presidential vote for John C. Fremont in 1856. His fellow citizens, recognizing his worth and ability, have often called him to office. He first served about ten years as highway commissioner; was supervisor three terms; and in 1894 was elected to represent McLean county in the state legislature, being re-elected in 1896 for another term of two years. During his first term he served on about six committees; and during the second term was chairman of the county and township committees and a member of other important ones. He has been a delegate to

numerous county, congressional and state conventions of his party and has also served on the county central committee. In whatever position he has filled he has made a faithful and efficient officer. He has been prominently identified with the Atlanta Union Agricultural Society for twenty-six years, was one of the directors for about twelve years, and has been the popular president of the same for sixteen years, during which time he has been very successful in his efforts to build up the society. He is one of the most public-spirited and progressive men of his community, and gives a liberal support to all enterprises calculated to in any way advance the interests of his township or county. Socially he is a member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge, of McLean, in which he has filled all the chairs.

CHRISTIAN ROTH. Germany has furnished to America many of her most prominent and valued citizens. Almost every town in the Union has some representatives of the Fatherland,—men whose lives are characterized by diligence, enterprise, progressiveness and integrity. Such a one is Christian Roth, now the honored president of the village of Stanford, and one of the leading merchants of the town. He was born in Rothenburg, Wurtemberg, Germany, August 9, 1850, his parents being Christian and Christiana (Ihle) Roth. The father was a farmer and a prominent resident of his community, holding an office similar to that of village president for the long period of fifteen consecutive years. He died in his native land in 1864, and his wife passed away two years later. They were consistent members of the Lutheran



Church and people of the highest respectability. Their children were Andreas, who is still living at the old home place in Germany; Catherine and John, who are residents of Mt. Pulaski, Illinois; and Mrs. Christina Metzler, of Mackinaw.

Christian Roth, the other member of the family, and the subject of this review, was left an orphan at the age of sixteen years. He had acquired a good education in his native tongue and in 1866, accompanied by his brother John and sister Christina, he crossed the Atlantic to Canada, having determined to try his fortune in the new world. The following year he located in Lincoln, Illinois, where he learned the barber's trade and also acquired considerable knowledge of the English language, learning to read and write. As he was dependent upon his own resources for a living, he had no opportunity to attend school, but through the improvement of his leisure hours he has become a well-informed man. For a year and a half he worked at his trade, but not finding that occupation satisfactory, he went to Cincinnati, where he learned the tinner's trade, serving a three-years' apprenticeship. He spent one more year in that city and after the big fire went to Chicago, where he was employed on cornice work, both in and out of the shop, working on the roofs of many of the new buildings of the metropolis. Service of that kind was in great demand and he therefore made a good start. In 1872 he removed to Bloomington and secured a position in the tin shop of Fred Voltz. He afterward worked on metallic coffins for a Mr. Major, and in 1874 came to Stanford, establishing the first tin shop of the village. He did a general tinning and roofing business and from the beginning success attend-

ed his efforts, so that after two years he removed to the site of his present store and opened a little hardware stock, thus extending the field of his labors. Some years subsequently, his business having grown to large proportions, he erected his present store, which is sixty-eight by twenty-two feet. He occupies all of the floors, having secured a very liberal patronage. He carries everything found in a first-class establishment of the kind, and his reasonable prices and honorable business methods have gained him a large and desirable trade.

Mr. Roth is a man of resourceful business ability and his efforts have not been confined to the hardware and tin business. Fifteen years ago he formed a partnership with Abel Brooks in the establishment of a farm implement store and has since carried on a successful business in that line, Roth & Company being now the oldest firm in the trade in Stanford. He has likewise made judicious investments in real estate, and is the owner of valuable farming property in Kansas and Calhoun county, Iowa. He was also one of the original stock-holders in the State Bank of Stanford and has served on the board of directors for a number of years, and also is a stock-holder of the Corn Belt Bank of Bloomington.

Mr. Roth was married January 26, 1876, to Miss Mary L. Krueger, a native of Germany, and a daughter of William Krueger, a well-known resident of Stanford. They now have eight children, namely: Clara, Christina, Amelia, Fred, Mamie, Elsie, Otto and Alvina. The family attend the Christian church, of which Mrs. Roth is a member, and Mr. Roth contributes liberally to its support. In politics he is a stalwart Democrat, and for a number of terms served

as trustee of the village. In April, 1899, he was elected president of the village board, and has entered upon a progressive administration. He has been a member of the school board for a term of years. A new city well is being bored and other excellent improvements are being made. Mr. Roth supports every measure for the public good and is a representative citizen whose life stands in evidence of the opportunities afforded to young men in America. He has worked his way steadily upward by determined effort, and now occupies a prominent position in business, political and social circles.

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**J WILLIAM YOUNG.** Amongst the self-made men of McLean county who have succeeded in acquiring a comfortable home and competence through their own energy and thrift may be numbered the gentleman whose name introduces this sketch. He is a resident of Mt. Hope township, where he owns a valuable and well-improved farm of two hundred acres, on section 20, and where he is engaged in general farming, meeting with great success in his chosen calling. He has been a resident of this county since the 10th of October, 1851.

A native of Kentucky, Mr. Young was born in Logan county, August 17, 1841, and is a son of John H. Young, whose birth occurred in Virginia, in 1816. The grandfather, John Young, was born in Pennsylvania in 1781, and when a child of two years was taken by his father to Virginia, where he grew to manhood and married a Miss Grinter. At an early day they removed to Kentucky, locating twelve miles east of Russellville, and were among the first settlers of Logan county, where in the

midst of the wilderness the grandfather cleared and developed a farm of about six hundred acres. He originally entered two hundred acres from the government, and was one of the most active and enterprising farmers of his community.

John H. Young, father of our subject, grew to manhood in Kentucky, and received a fair education. He assisted in opening up and carrying on the home farm during early life. He first married Miss Margaret Ewing, a native of Logan county, Kentucky, who died there December 11, 1842, during the infancy of our subject. In 1851 the father came to McLean county, Illinois, driving across the country in a buggy, and was the first to locate in Mt. Hope township from Kentucky, though later several families came from Logan and Butler counties, that state, and settled in the same neighborhood, it becoming known as New Kentucky. Mr. Young entered one hundred and sixty acres of land, erected a frame house thereon, and at once turned his attention to the improvement and cultivation of his land. After operating this place for about sixteen years he sold out and removed, in 1867, to Bates county, Missouri, where he spent the remainder of his life, dying there in 1876.

J. William Young was a lad of ten years when he came to the county, and his early life was passed in assisting in the work on the farm through the summer months, and in the winter attending the country schools, first at Mt. Hope, and later at Armington, thus acquiring a fair education. He continued to give his father the benefit of his labors until twenty-five years of age. He was then married in Mt. Hope township, May 29, 1866, to Mrs. Mary J. Ewing, her first husband, John H. Ewing, a native of

Kentucky, was engaged in farming in this county until after the civil war broke out, when he enlisted in the One Hundred and Forty-third Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and died in the service at Rollo, Missouri, July 13, 1864. Mrs. Young is a native of Perry, Ohio, and a daughter of John G. and Elizabeth (Gardner) Moore, who came to Illinois in 1843, and were among the first settlers of Tazewell county, where her father entered land and opened up a farm; there he died in 1853. Mrs. Young had one son by her first marriage, E. E. Ewing, now a farmer of Allin township, McLean county. There are three children by the second union: May, wife of Lee Stubblefield, a substantial farmer of Mt. Hope township; Morris M., who is married and engaged in farming in the same township; and Ernest A., a traveling salesman, residing in Sioux City, Iowa.

Mr. and Mrs. Young began their domestic life upon a part of the farm where they still reside, his first purchase consisting of forty acres, to which he has added from time to time as his financial resources have increased until he now has two hundred acres of rich and arable land under a high state of cultivation and improved with a large, neat and substantial residence and good barn and outbuildings. The farm is well tiled and fenced and adorned with an orchard, shade an ornamental fruit trees.

In his political affiliations Mr. Young is a staunch Republican and cast his first presidential ballot for Abraham Lincoln, in 1864. He went to the polls with his father, but the latter voted for General McClellan. Our subject takes an active interest in political affairs, but has never cared for the honors or emoluments of public office. As a friend of education, however, he has

served some years on the school board. For almost a half a century he has been identified with the interests of McLean county and his straightforward, honorable course in life has secured for him the confidence and high regard of all with whom he has come in contact, either in business or social life.

**R** H. BAKER, section 11, Funk's Grove township, familiarly known as Harris Baker, is numbered among the pioneers of McLean county, dating his residence here since 1835. He was born in Morgan county, Ohio, September 7, 1829, and is the son of James Baker, also a native of the same county and state, who there married Christiana Roberts, and with his family came to this county in 1834, arriving in Blooming Grove in the fall of that year. He soon afterward entered a tract of forty acres adjoining the farm where our subject now resides, erected his log cabin, and commenced life in this then new country. Fencing and breaking his tract, he soon had it in a fine state of cultivation, and from time to time added to its area until the farm embraced about two hundred acres. He was not content to remain here, however, but returned to his old home in Morgan county, where his death occurred.

The subject of this sketch was five years of age when he came with his parents to McLean county, and here he grew to manhood and assisted in the cultivation of the home farm and attended the pioneer schools as the opportunity was afforded him, which was usually a short time in the winter months. He remained with his parents until he attained his majority, and on the 13th of November, 1851, he was united in mar-



riage with Miss Mary Taylor, of DeWitt county, Illinois, but who was a native of Perry county, Ohio, but who came to Illinois with her parents when a small child. Joseph Taylor, her father, was a native of Virginia, who moved to Ohio when a young man, and there married Miss Letha Gardner, who was a native of Perry county, Ohio.

After his marriage, in the spring of 1852, Mr. Baker located on the farm where he now resides, having previously purchased forty acres of his present farm. He built a small house in which he lived for some years, in the meantime improving the place. As his means permitted, he purchased more land, adding thus to the area of his farm until it now comprises three hundred and sixty acres in the home place, all of which is under cultivation. He has two good farm residences on the place, with barns and out-buildings, a good orchard, together with small fruit in abundance, and in fact has a farm of which he may well be proud. He also owns a farm of forty acres in DeWitt county, Illinois, and one of one hundred and sixty acres in Adair county, Iowa, near the city of Greenfield, which is well improved and a valuable farm. Commencing life almost empty-handed, by his own labor and enterprise, assisted by his most estimable wife, he has succeeded in acquiring three valuable farms, and is to-day one of the most enterprising and public-spirited citizens of McLean county.

To Mr. and Mrs. Baker seven children were born, of whom four are now living. Joseph P. is a substantial farmer of Funk's Grove township. Mary Alice married Martin Hammett, but is now deceased. Elmira and Almeda, twins, grew to womanhood; Elmira married Benjamin Dunbar,

who is farming one of Mr. Baker's places. Almeda married William Williamson, but is now deceased. Christiana is the wife of G. Critchfield, a farmer of McLean county. Letha is the wife of James Scott, also a farmer of this county. Sarah Catherine married Oscar Samuels, but is now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Baker have now twenty-three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

In politics, Mr. Baker was originally an old-line Whig, but on the organization of the Republican party became identified with it, voting for its first nominee for president, the great "Pathfinder," John C. Fremont, in 1856. Since that time he has been an earnest advocate of the principles of the party. The only public office that he has ever held, or that he ever cared to hold, was that of school director. He was one of the charter members of the Fairview Christian church, and for about twenty years served as one of its elders. His wife is also a member of that church. Fraternally, he is a member of Heyworth Lodge, No. —, A. F. & A. M. The great changes that have been made in the country since he came here sixty-five years ago are almost too wonderful to believe. From a wilderness has sprung up thriving cities and villages, every acre of the vast domain has been placed under tribute to man, and all this has he not only witnessed, but he has done much to accomplish it, and as a pioneer he deserves honor and respect.

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**JUDGE COLOSTIN D. MYERS.**  
Whether the elements of success in life are innate attributes of the individual, or whether they are quickened by a process of circumstantial development, it is impossible



to clearly determine. Yet the study of a successful life is none the less interesting and profitable by reason of the existence of this same uncertainty. So much in excess of that of successes is the record of failures or semi-failures that one is constrained to attempt an analysis in either case and to determine the method or causation in an approximate way. The march of improvement and progress is accelerated day by day and each successive moment seems to demand of men a broader intelligence and a greater discernment than the preceding. Successful men must be live men in this age, bristling with activity, and the lessons of biography must be far-reaching to an extent not superficially evident. Through his own efforts Judge Myers has advanced to a high and honorable distinction in professional circles, and has gained recognition and prestige as one of the most prominent lawyers of this section of the state. As a jurist he also ranks among the best and is now serving as judge of the eleventh judicial circuit of Illinois.

The Judge was born in Racine, Meigs county, Ohio, May 7, 1847, and is a son of Benjamin Myers, who was born in Monongalia county, West Virginia, his father, Jacob Myers, being one of the pioneers of that region. The grandfather was from eastern Pennsylvania, where the family had lived for several generations, but as a farmer he spent the greater part of his life in West Virginia, where his death occurred. There the father of our subject was reared, but when a young man he went to Meigs county, Ohio, where as a skilled mechanic, he worked at the millwright's and cabinet-maker's trades. He had previously put in operation a number of mills in the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia, and at Racine, Ohio,

erected mills, in which he owned an interest. While there he married Miss Serena Elliott, whose father, Fuller Elliott, was a native of Massachusetts and one of the organizers of Meigs county, Ohio.

Fuller Elliott was a well-known and distinguished man both in medicine and in law. He located in what is now Meigs county, some time before the year 1801. He was the son of Aaron and Lydia Elliott, of Worcester, Massachusetts. He was a graduate at Boston, Massachusetts, and chose medicine as his profession. Having received a diploma, he moved to Ohio, and located first at Marietta, from which place he moved to Graham Station, where he purchased a section of land and made for himself a home. He then met and married Miss Serena Jones, August 6, 1801, and reared fourteen children. In 1817 he was made judge of what was the Gallia county, and presided in the court at Galliopolis. On the division of the county he suggested the name of Meigs to that section in which he resided, and continued to preside as judge until elected to the legislature. After serving two or more terms, he resumed the practice of medicine at his home, where he died in 1832, aged sixty years.

About 1849, Benjamin Myers moved to Pomeroy, the county seat of Meigs county, where he was connected with a foundry as a designer and superintendent of the pattern department. He died in that city in 1852. He was a prominent member and deacon of the Baptist church, and practically constructed the house of worship for that denomination at Racine, Ohio, the material being given by others. Immediately after his death the mother returned to Racine, and after her second marriage, in 1856, went to Marion county, West Virginia. There

she died in October, 1894. By her first union she had four children, three sons, of whom our subject is the youngest, and a daughter, still younger.

Judge Myers began his education in the country subscription schools of West Virginia, and worked on a farm until 1863. Leaving home, he went to Pomeroy, Meigs county, Ohio, where he was employed as errand boy and clerk in a general store, and in 1864, at that place, he enlisted for four months in Company K, One Hundred and Fortieth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. With that regiment he participated in the Lynchburg campaign, and later re-enlisted in the Thirty-second Ohio Veteran Infantry. As his regiment was with Sherman, and there was no way of reaching it, he was placed in the transportation service, and was on detached duty most of the time. He joined his command at Rollo, North Carolina, but still remained in his special service until honorably discharged at Columbus, Ohio, in May, 1865.

Prior to going to Ohio, Judge Myers had attended school for three months in the county seat of Marion county, West Virginia. After being mustered out he returned to West Virginia on a visit, but in August, 1865, entered the preparatory department of the Normal University, at Lebanon, Ohio. In order to secure the money with which to pay his expenses while in school, he engaged in teaching or at work on a farm in Virginia. He attended the university, only for a term or two at a time, until 1869, when he was able to take two terms. This was followed by a year at work, and in 1871-72 he completed the scientific course at that institution, graduating in 1872 with the degree of B. S. He stood at the head of all his classes. In the fall of that year he en-

tered the law department of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, where he took a two-years' course, and he also did considerable work in the literary department at the same time. He was graduated in the class of 1874, with the degree of LL. B., and was admitted to the Michigan bar. While in school he had the opportunity of studying with a prominent attorney, who aided him not a little.

On the 5th of September, 1872, Judge Myers was united in marriage with Miss Dora Yeager, of Lebanon, Ohio, a daughter of Benjamin and Mary Yeager, of Jackson county, Ohio. She graduated from the classical department of the Normal University, at Lebanon. On the 1st of April, 1874, the Judge and his wife removed to Bloomington, Illinois, where he opened an office and commenced the practice of his profession alone. A year later, however, he formed a partnership with Albert Bushnell, and as Myers & Bushnell they successfully engaged in practice for three or four years, when Mr. Bushnell moved away. The Judge then became connected with Isaac W. Stroud, ex-county treasurer, and a well-known lawyer of Bloomington, as a member of the firm of Myers & Stroud, and they remained together until Mr. Stroud's health failed in 1880, when the partnership was dissolved, and he died soon afterward.

Since that time Judge Myers has been alone in practice. He has always taken an active and prominent part in political affairs, and from the time of the Garfield campaign in 1880 until his election to the office of county judge he served as chairman of the Republican county committee. Three times he was nominated as county judge by acclamation; was first elected in 1886 for a four-years' term, and was twice

re-elected without opposition by his own party. All of the special tax cases for Bloomington improvement and much of the special drainage litigation of McLean county were first tried before him, and when carried to the higher courts his decisions were always sustained, so that he made for himself a fine record in that office. In 1897 he was nominated for circuit judge by acclamation by both the county and district conventions, he having previously resigned the office of county judge, and in June of that year he was elected to the office which he is now so acceptably filling. The eleventh judicial district comprises McLean, Livingston, Logan, Ford and Woodford counties, and its legal business has never been so promptly and systematically disposed of as it has been since he came into office.

As a progressive and public-spirited citizen Judge Myers has given his support to worthy enterprises for the good of his adopted city. He, with two or three others, introduced the first electric light in Bloomington, and was connected with the company until its success was established. He is also a director and treasurer of the Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Company. For ten years he was a member of the faculty of the law department of the Illinois Wesleyan University, filling the chair of practice and pleadings until his duties as circuit judge compelled his resignation, and he is a member of and trustee of the bar library. Socially he is one of the charter members of W. T. Sherman Post, G. A. R., and was one of the active promoters in establishing the post. He is also a member of Damon Lodge, No. 10, K. P., in which organization he served as grand chancellor for the state in 1896, and is now one of the

supreme representatives from Illinois. In the Uniform Rank of Knights of Pythias, he has filled all the offices from captain to colonel of the regiment and member of the brigade general's staff. He attends and supports the First Methodist Episcopal church, of which his wife is a member. They have a beautiful home at No. 214 East Grove street, which has become the center of a cultured society circle. Socially the Judge is deservedly popular, as he is affable and courteous in manner, and possesses that essential qualification to success in public life, that of making friends readily and of strengthening the ties of all friendship as time advances.

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JOHN CREBER, a prominent and successful contractor and builder of Bloomington, where he has carried on operations for the past twenty-seven years, was born in Plympton, Devonshire, England, December 23, 1834, a son of Walter and Sarah (Gullett) Creber. The birth place of the father was also Plympton, which was the home of the family for many generations, and there he followed farming throughout life. Our subject was educated in the schools of Plymouth, and at the age of fourteen he began learning the bricklayers' and masons' trade in that city, serving a seven-years' apprenticeship before he was granted his papers as a full-fledged mason. After working as a journeymen three or four years, he engaged in contract work in that place until 1870.

In the meantime, Mr. Creber was married there, September 18, 1856, to Miss Emma Adams, a native of Plymouth, and all of their children were born in that



country. Two died in early life, and the three who came with their parents to America are: Walter H., who is bookkeeper of the State National Bank of Bloomington, while he makes his home with his parents; Emily C. is now the wife of W. T. Monroe, of Chicago, by whom she has two children, Walter D. and Howard Creber; and Bessie J., who is at home.

With his family, Mr. Creber sailed for America in 1870, and first located in Peoria, Illinois, but the following year took up his residence in Bloomington, where he has since engaged in contracting in his line. He has done the brick-work and plastering on many of the best buildings of the city, and has furnished employment to many men. He has also took contractions for the erection of brick churches and other buildings outside of Bloomington, and for the past ten years has made a specialty of tile setting around grates, etc., and has done a large majority of such work in this locality. He put in place the tiling in the Eddy building and also in some of the finest residences in the city. He also supplies the tile used, being a dealer in that article. He is a man of good business ability, sound judgment and progressive ideas, and the success he has achieved in life is due entirely to his own well-directed efforts. He occupies an enviable position in business circles, owing to his straightforward, honorable course, and he has the respect and confidence of the entire community. He and his family have been consistent members of the Christian church for many years, and by all who know them they are held in high regard. They reside at No. 527 West Grove street, which place was purchased by Mr. Creber several years ago and greatly improved by him.

**W**ILLIAM H. RIGGS, who is now living a retired life in the city of Saybrook, but who was for many years actively engaged in farming and stock raising in Cheney's Grove township, and who later engaged in the banking business in Saybrook, is a native of Cheney's Grove township, born February 13, 1834. His father, William M. Riggs, was a native of Maryland, born in 1803, and was a son of Samuel Riggs, also a native of Maryland, who there married Miss Priscilla Marshall, and in 1801 moved to Fleming county, Kentucky, and there engaged in farming. In that county William M. Riggs grew to manhood and married Miss Nancy Pitts, who was born in Fleming county, Kentucky.

In the fall of 1830, William M. Riggs moved with his family to McLean county, Illinois, and located in Cheney's Grove township, and was one of the first six settlers in that township and located a claim, which he deeded in 1837. Purchasing some government land, he opened up a farm, and there spent the remainder of his life, dying January 28, 1887, at the age of eighty-four years. His wife passed away January 26, 1881, at the age of seventy-four years. They were the parents of four sons and two daughters, who grew to maturity and who married and reared families. George here grew to manhood, but returned to Kentucky and there married. Later he came back to McLean county, purchased land and developed a farm, and died in Saybrook November 7, 1897, at the age of seventy years. Henry M., after his marriage, resided here for some years, but is now living a retired life in Portland, Oregon. Margaret P. married John D. Lewis, a substantial farmer of Cheney's Grove township. Will-



iam H., the subject of this sketch, was next in order of birth. Mary J. married M. T. Hall, and they now reside in Colorado City, Texas. Samuel R., who was married, died June 9, 1883.

The boyhood and youth of our subject were spent on his father's farm, and in the common schools of his day he received his education. He remained at home until 1852, when, on the 25th of February, he started for California, going by way of New Orleans and the Nicaragua route, and by the Pacific ocean to San Francisco, where he arrived June 10. He spent some three years in that new Eldorado, two years of which time he was engaged in mining. For one year he run a pack train to the mines. He met with fair success and returned home by Nicaragua and New York, arriving in Bloomington October 10, 1854.

While in California, Mr. Riggs sent his father three hundred dollars with which to purchase some land. His father invested one hundred dollars of it in land for him, and put out the remainder at interest. On the land purchased by his father for him, and which comprised one hundred and sixty acres, he commenced farming, first purchasing some ox teams with which to break the prairie. He later purchased one hundred and sixty acres adjoining, giving him a fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres, all of which he put under cultivation, and which he improved by the erection of a good dwelling house, barns and other outbuildings. After remaining on that farm for thirteen years, during which time he also engaged in the stock business, he concluded to move into the village of Saybrook. For three years he and his brother-in-law, M. T. Hall, handled nearly all the stock sold in the eastern part of the county.

In 1870 Mr. Riggs moved to Saybrook, and in company with his brother, Samuel R., started a private bank, the first institution of the kind in the place. They erected a bank building and continued in the business for seven years. On account of the ill health of his brother, they sold out and the brother moved to Jack county, Texas, where his death occurred. Since selling the bank, our subject has practically lived a retired life, but stimulating industries by loaning money. On his removal to the village he purchased residence property and later erected his present fine residence, which is one of the best in the city.

Mr. Riggs was married in Bloomington, October 4, 1855, to Miss Catherine A. Ball, who was born in Cheney's Grove township, and daughter of Snowden Ball, a native of Kentucky, and who was also among the first six settlers of the township, but who was married here. While they have had no children of their own, Mr. and Mrs. Riggs took a child of three years, Sidney Blake-man, from the orphans' asylum of Chicago, reared and educated him. He is now married and is residing near Wichita, Kansas, where he is engaged in farming.

In early life Mr. Riggs was a Democrat, but being of free soil tendencies, he naturally became a Republican on the organization of that party, and has since been a staunch advocate of its principles. He has served as a member of the county board of supervisors, and was a member of that body at the time the bonds of the township were issued to the amount of fifty thousand dollars for the building of the Lake Erie Railroad. He was chiefly instrumental in securing the road and was one of its first directors, serving until it changed hands. For twenty years he has served as treasurer

of Saybrook, and is now serving in that position. He has been a delegate to numerous conventions of his party, and in such conventions has always exercised a good influence. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Saybrook, and has been one of its official board for years. He has ever taken an interest in the success of the church, and was one of the most liberal contributors in the erection of the church building. Mrs. Riggs is also a member of the same church, and was formerly very active in all departments of its work. Both are well known and highly esteemed. They are lifelong residents of the township, and have done much in its development.

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**W**ILLIAM HASENWINKLE is one of the public-spirited citizens of Hudson to whose energy and foresight that locality is indebted for many improvements. While, as a prosperous business man, he has given close attention to his private affairs, he has never forgotten or ignored that bond of common interest which should unite the people of every community, and has always been ready to promote progress in every line. As a business man he is enterprising, energetic and always abreast of the times, and has been rewarded by a handsome competence.

Mr. Hasenwinkle was born November 15, 1834, in Madgeburg, Germany, near the city of the same name, a son of Frederick and Mary (Koontz) Hasenwinkle. He was reared in his native land, where his father was engaged in business as a baker and grocer until September, 1857, when the parents, with their seven children, took passage on a sailing vessel bound for Amer-

ica. After a long and tedious voyage of six weeks and three days they landed at New Orleans, and from there proceeded up the Mississippi river to St. Louis and later to central Illinois, reaching Bloomington on the 17th of November. For a year they made their home in that city, and then our subject rented a farm of one hundred acres of William Bettinger in Normal township, four miles from Bloomington, on which he and his parents resided for two years. Subsequently they rented more land, which, with the assistance of his brother, our subject carried on. The third year of their residence here he and his youngest brother, Herman, rented a farm of two hundred acres two miles north of Normal, which was then owned by George McClung but now belongs to Judge Scott.

Mr. Hasenwinkle next rented the three hundred acre farm of John Magoon, two miles south of Hudson, in Hudson township, on which he expected to locate after his marriage and operate himself, leaving the other farms for his brothers. At the time the civil war broke out and all wished to enlist, and a contest arose between our subject and his eldest brother as to which should remain at home and care for their aged parents and their own families. It was decided by lot that our subject should remain, and for one year he had charge of the three farms and families. At the end of that time, however, he sold off every thing except on the farm where he lived in Hudson township. Though exempt from service by fifteen years, the father enlisted in the Hecker regiment, and for a year and a half took an active part in the war and participated in the grand review at Washington, D. C. His eldest son, Henry, died while in camp at Springfield, Missouri.



WILLIAM HASENWINKLE.

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Another son, Henry, who was being educated at Quincy College, left school at the first call for troops, and later re-enlisted in the Ninety-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. At the battle of Prairie Grove, Arkansas, he lost an eye. The mother grieved to death at the loss of her son, passing away at the home of our subject in 1863. The father also died there in 1871. In order of birth their children were as follows: (1) Frederick died as before mentioned. (2) William is the second of the family. (3) Harmon removed to Iowa in 1882, and there was engaged in business until 1898, but is now living retired. In his family were seven children, the youngest of whom is Belle, who, since the death of her mother when she was two years old, has made her home with our subject. (4) Henry removed to St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1868, and at that place is now successfully engaged in the wholesale hat and fur business. (5) August was educated at the Wesleyan University, later read law with Mr. Rowell, of Bloomington, and finally graduated from the law school at Albany, New York. Since then he has been on the stage under the name of Carl Haswin, and has met with decided success in the theatrical world. By a former marriage to Louis Koontz, the mother of our subject had two children. The daughter, Matilda Koontz, married Gotlieb Bruski in Germany and came to America in 1889. Here her husband was in the employ of our subject until 1897, when he returned to Germany, where he died in the fall of that year. The son, Louis Koontz, enlisted in the Union army during the civil war and served all through that struggle.

On the 15th of February, 1861, Mr. Hasenwinkle led to the marriage altar Miss Louisa Stall, who was born in Wertemburg,

Germany, April 22, 1839, and was reared there. She was one of a family of seven children, the others being Sophia, who died in Germany; a brother, who died young; George, a resident of Bloomington; and Maggie, wife of Silas Baker, of Hudson. Our subject and his wife have no children of their own.

After renting the Magoon farm in Hudson township for six years, Mr. Hasenwinkle purchased one hundred and sixty acres of it, and for a time successfully engaged in farming and stock raising. In the spring of 1867 he sold the place and erected the first gristmill at Hudson, to the operation of which he devoted his entire attention for two years. He then built the first elevator at that place and began shipping grain quite extensively. In 1874 his mill and elevator were both destroyed by fire at a loss of twelve thousand dollars, but with characteristic energy, he promptly rebuilt, and in April, 1895, when they were again burned to the ground he replaced them by new structures. He now has three elevators, one in Hudson, one in Kerrick and one in El Paso, with a capacity of thirty thousand bushels each. He is also engaged in shipping stock. Besides his own comfortable residence, which was erected in 1886 and in one of the best in the village, he has built four others in Hudson, three of which he still owns. Politically he is a staunch supporter of the Republican party, and he has been honored with several local offices, having served as mayor of the town three years and a member of the council two years. In 1899 he was elected school trustee. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Bloomington, and of Bloomington Lodge, F. & A. M. His life illustrates that the qualifications necessary

for success are a high ambition and a resolute honorable purpose to reach the exalted standard that has been set up. He began life for himself in limited circumstances but has worked his way steadily upward until he is now one of the most prosperous and substantial citizens of his community, as well as one of the most honored and highly esteemed residents of Hudson.

**W**ILLIAM SCOTT, a retired farmer, and highly-esteemed citizen of Arrowsmith, Illinois, was born in Northamptonshire, England, December 3, 1832, a son of William and Charlotte (Holt) Scott, also natives of that country. In early life the father followed the occupation of farming, but later conducted a hotel at Banbury, Oxfordshire, England. He died at the age of fifty-six years, and his wife at the age of seventy-five. In their family were eleven children, of whom ten grew to man and womanhood, namely: Mary Ann, Fannie, Sarah, Elizabeth, Thomas, William, Richard, Susan, Adelaide and Emma. Six are still living. Richard, a resident of Australia; Thomas, of Woodford county, Illinois; Susan, wife of George Orgill, of Australia, Sarah, widow of John Gibbard, of Banbury, England; Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Holt, of Barton, Hartshorne, Buckinghamshire, England; and William, our subject.

William Scott was educated in the schools of his native land. He continued to reside with his father for a short time after leaving school, and when the latter died he went to London, where he was employed as an omnibus conductor. In 1856 he emigrated to America and located in Woodford county, Illinois, where he

at first worked as a farm hand by the month for two years. The following year he engaged in farming on the shares, and then operated rented land for several years. His first purchase consisted of eighty acres in Panola township, Woodford county, to the cultivation and improvement of which he devoted his energies for fourteen years. Coming to McLean county, in 1883, he purchased one hundred and thirty-five acres in Arrowsmith township, on which he resided until the spring of 1899, when he removed to the village of Arrowsmith. He still owns his farm, however, on sections 32 and 33, Arrowsmith township, where he now has two hundred and fifteen acres under a high state of cultivation and well improved. He was a thorough and systematic farmer and a man of good business ability, and the success that he has achieved in life is certainly justly merited.

On the 28th of March, 1867, Mr. Scott was united in marriage with Miss Sarah A. Amos, who was born in Northamptonshire, England, January 4, 1838, a daughter of William and Elizabeth (Carpenter) Amos, also natives of England. The father, who for a few years conducted a hotel in Banbury, England, died at the age of thirty-six years, when Mrs. Scott was only nine months old, leaving two children, the older being William Amos, now a resident of Jasper, Iowa. After the death of her husband Mrs. Amos came with a brother to America in 1854, and she passed away at the home of our subject, in August, 1892, at the age of eighty-four years. Mr. and Mrs. Scott have three children, namely. Emma L., born February 18, 1868, is now the wife of Samuel Farley Harsha, by whom she has two children, Mamie E. and Russell S., and they reside upon our subject's

home place in Arrowsmith township; Walter A., born October 20, 1869, also lives on the home farm in Arrowsmith township; and Frederick W., born November 22, 1880, is a resident of the same township, also on the home place. Since casting his first presidential vote for U. S. Grant, Mr. Scott has been an ardent supporter of the Republican party, and for six years he was an efficient member of the school board in his district. His life has ever been such as to command the confidence and respect of all with whom he has come in contact, and he has made a host of friends during his residence in McLean county.

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**J**AMES THORNTON SNELL, deceased, for many years the well-known president of the DeWitt County National Bank, Clinton, Illinois, was a financier of more than average ability, and a most successful business man. He was born in Washington, Tazewell county, Illinois, March 27, 1841, and was the son of Colonel Thomas and Sarah E. (Church) Snell, the former a native of Cincinnati, Ohio, where he was born on the 26th of December, 1818. The Colonel was fourth in a family of five sons born to Thomas and Eliza Snell. His father was a native of New Jersey and was a pioneer of Illinois, locating in Tazewell county, where his death occurred many years ago. His mother later moved to Iowa where her death occurred.

Colonel Snell spent his boyhood and youth in Tazewell county, and in the pioneer schools of that county received a limited education. This was supplemented, however, in after years, by much reading and study, making him a well-informed man. In 1845 he moved from Washington, Tazewell

county, to Clinton, DeWitt county, where he engaged in the mercantile business, in which he continued until 1852, at which time the Illinois Central Railroad was in process of construction. He secured several large contracts for the construction of that road, and later engaged in the construction of portions of the Chicago & Southwestern, Racine & Mississippi, Ohio & Dayton, Bloomington, Lafayette & Mississippi, and the Lafayette and Muncie Railroad, in each of which he was quite successful. In 1859 he engaged in the wagon-making business in Aurora, Illinois, in which he continued until 1865, employing at times some two hundred and fifty men. Originally the colonel was a Democrat, and in 1860 ran for lieutenant governor of Illinois on the Breckenridge ticket. Stephen A. Douglas tried hard to win him over to his way of thinking on the slavery and other questions, and in company with General McClellan, who was then in the service of the Illinois Central Railroad, visited him for that purpose. When the south attempted to disrupt the Union on the election of Lincoln to the presidency, it did not take him long to decide where he should cast his lot. He was for the Union every time, and denounced in the strongest terms his late associates in their attempts to secede from the Union. In August, 1862, he raised the One Hundred and Seventh Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was commissioned its colonel. With his regiment he marched to the front. While in Kentucky he was ordered to protect some rebel property, but he gave notice that he entered the service to fight rebels and not to protect them in their property rights. For disobedience he was forced to resign. From the breaking out of the war to the present time he has been an uncompromising



Republican. By his union with Miss Sarah E. Church, five children were born. His wife died October 11, 1875.

Soon after the birth of our subject the family moved to Clinton, Illinois, and in the public schools of that place he received his primary education. He later attended Knox College, at Galesburg, Illinois, but finished his literary course in Williston Seminary, Easthampton, Massachusetts. His father being a successful railroad contractor, he determined on the same line of business as soon as he should complete his studies. About the time he was ready to leave school, the firm of Snell, Taylor & Company had a large number of railroad contracts in which he became interested, and to which he gave his entire time. From these contracts he laid the foundation of his fortune, investing his earnings in farm lands. In 1872 the DeWitt County National Bank was organized with a paid-up capital of ninety thousand dollars, and some four years later he was elected president of the same, in which position he continued until his death. The capital stock was after a time reduced to fifty thousand dollars, of which he owned three-fifths of the shares, while in addition several shares were owned by his daughter, Lena.

Always loyal, in 1864 he enlisted in the One Hundred and Forty-fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry of which he was commissioned quartermaster with the rank of lieutenant, and in which capacity he served until the close of the war. Returning home after the expiration of his term of service, he settled down to business, and in all his undertakings he met with unqualified success. While he had a wealthy father, he had the proud satisfaction of knowing that he was the architect of his own fortune. A

fortunate investment in Iowa lands netted him over one hundred thousand dollars, which was but one of his fortunate speculations.

In 1869 Mr. Snell was united in marriage with Hannah Conklin, a daughter of Captain John Conklin, of Clinton, Illinois, and by this union three children were born, one daughter and two sons. The daughter, Lena, is now the wife of Will V. Dinsmore, and they reside in San Jose, California. The sons, Thomas Thornton and Harry Conklin, yet remain at home.

Becoming impressed with the beauty and attractiveness of Bloomington as a residence center, and Mr. Snell decided to erect a home here, the palatial residence on North Main street, which was built in 1891, is one of the handsomest in the city. The family were warmly welcomed by Bloomington society, and at their home the acme of hospitality always prevailed. The family were successful and artistic entertainers, and many notable events in society have taken place inside of the walls of their handsomely appointed residence. Wealth in their case went hand in hand with happiness, and nothing seemed lacking to bring enjoyment.

Still retaining his interest in the DeWitt County National Bank, on coming to Bloomington, Mr. Snell invested in the stock of the Corn Belt Bank, and later was made vice-president of the concern, and was a valuable member of its board of directors. Like his father before him, he was a man of positive character, and was outspoken on every subject in which he felt an interest. His long connection with the Bank of Clinton, as president, had made him known to nearly every man in DeWitt county. He was genial and pleasant in his business rela-



tions with friends, for whom he would make any sacrifice. He never took advantage of the necessities of the unfortunate, as is often the case with rich men, and no farm tenants ever had a more liberal or generous landlord. It was in the home circle, however, that he shone at his best. He loved his wife and children, and never denied them any rational pleasure that money or love could procure. No wife or children could have a more affectionate husband or father, and his wife and children repaid his love in kind.

Thornton Snell never sought office, or desired prominence or notoriety of any kind. He preferred to conduct his business in a quiet, unostentatious manner, and carried this principle through all the walks of life. He was a member of the Clinton Lodge, K. of P., but never took an active interest in the routine work of the lodge. In religious matters he was a warm admirer of the Presbyterian faith, and a regular attendant of the Second Presbyterian church, of Bloomington, of which his wife is a member. In politics, he was an ardent Republican, at all times giving his support to the men and measures of that party.

The death of Mr. Snell was quite sudden and entirely unexpected on the 18th of April, 1896. He made a business trip to Clinton on the morning of that day, returning home at 11:30 A. M. In the afternoon he felt ill, but nothing serious was thought of, and he insisted that his wife should make some social calls that she had planned. While she was absent the summons came, and his spirit returned to the God who gave it. His sudden death was a surprise to every citizen of Bloomington and Clinton. Expressions of regret were heard on every hand. The funeral services were held on

the 24th of April, being postponed to await the arrival of the only daughter. The services were conducted by Rev. John B. Wolfe, D. D., assisted by Rev. W. A. Hunter, D. D., and Rev. James Shaw. Dr. Wolfe paid an eloquent and grand tribute to his old-time friend and boyhood companion. His remains were then laid to rest in the Clinton cemetery.

Thornton Snell was a man held in the highest esteem by those who knew him. He was one of those public-spirited and enterprising citizens who are the life of a community, and without whom it is impossible to build up a country or locality. His energy and enterprise placed him in the front rank with the business men of Bloomington and Clinton, and he was always the substantial supporter and encourager of every measure tending to the credit and welfare of either city. As a man, citizen, husband, father and friend, the life of Thornton Snell was rounded into perfect manhood. In the various walks of life in which he was prominent he was always the same courteous gentleman, with the air and manner which at once impressed one with his true character. The manner in which the affairs of the banking firms with which he was connected were conducted, was a fair indication of his tact and ability as a financier. He was also a thorough business man, and his straightforward methods of conducting his operations, and promptness in meeting obligations gained him the confidence and respect of all.

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JOHN H. VREELAND is a prominent and successful citizen of Saybrook, Illinois, who is now living retired from business cares. His career proves that the only true

success in life is that which is accomplished by personal effort and consecutive industry. It proves that the road to success is open to all young men who have the courage to tread its pathway, and the life of such a man should serve as an inspiration to the young of this and future generations, and teach by incontrovertible facts that success is ambition's answer.

Mr. Vreeland was born in Bergen county, New Jersey, December 29, 1826, and on the paternal side is of German descent, the Vreeland family having been founded in the new world by four brothers, natives of the fatherland, who located here prior to the Revolutionary war. Our subject's great-grandfather, Vreeland, married a Miss Walls, of English ancestry, whose grandfather was a sailor in the British navy, and for his service in the battle of the Plains of Abraham received his freedom, after which he settled in New Jersey.

Martin J. Vreeland, father of our subject, was born in New Jersey, in 1805, a son of Jacob Vreeland, also a native of that state. On reaching manhood the former married Jane Terhune, of New Jersey, and they located on a farm in Bergen county, within ten miles of New York City, where they reared their family. Later the father came to McLean county, Illinois, and spent his remaining days with his sons, dying here in 1883, at the age of seventy-eight years and three months. In his family were four sons, all still living, namely: John H., our subject; Martin M., a resident of Saybrook, Illinois; Peter, of Gibson City, Illinois and George W., of Stafford county, Kansas. The only daughter, Jane, married and died at the age of twenty-seven years.

During his youth John H. Vreeland was given the advantages of a good common-

school education, and he remained on the home farm assisting in its operation until reaching manhood. He was married in Bergen county, New Jersey, in 1851, to Miss Abigail Wigant, a native of Ulster county, New York. For three years thereafter he continued to work with his father on the home farm, but in the fall of 1856 went to Columbus, Ohio. In October of the same year he came to McLean county, Illinois, and rented a place near Heyworth, but returned to Columbus for the winter. In February, 1857, he moved to this county with two teams, and for fourteen years was engaged in farming in Randolph township. In 1868 he bought one hundred acres of raw prairie land in Bellflower township, on which he located two years later, turning his attention at once to breaking, improving and cultivating his land. To the original tract he later added forty acres and converted the place into a fine farm, which he finally sold in 1882. In February of the following year he took up his residence in Saybrook and engaged in the grocery business, which he successfully carried on for eleven years, during which time he built a good brick block which is now occupied by a drug store with a hotel above. He also bought a lot in the residence portion of the village and built thereon a comfortable house for his own use. In 1894 he sold out his business and has since lived retired, but he and his brother Martin still own several good business houses in Saybrook from which he derives a good income. He ever uses his influence to advance the interest of the community, and is numbered among the most enterprising, public-spirited and valued citizens of Saybrook.

Mr. Vreeland has been called upon to mourn the loss of his estimable wife, who

departed this life in August, 1888, and was laid to rest in Saybrook cemetery. They had no children of their own, but from the age of four years reared and educated Helen Crantz, now the wife of William Barnett, of California. Politically Mr. Vreeland is a Jeffersonian Democrat, and cast his first vote for Zachary Taylor in 1848. Being in favor of a gold standard he supported Palmer in 1896, and at local elections he votes for the best men regardless of party ties. For nine years he most creditably and acceptably served as trustee of Bellflower township, but has never cared for official honors, preferring to give his undivided attention to his business interests. For over forty-two years he has been identified with the growth and development of this county, and in that time has become widely and favorably known, winning the confidence and esteem of all with whom he has come in contact, either in business or social life.

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**RUSSELL W. CROSBY**, a successful, enterprising and energetic business man of Saybrook, Illinois, and one of the leading citizens of that place, where he has made his home for seven years, was born in Summit county, Ohio, June 11, 1834. The Crosby family is of English extraction and the ancestors of our subject were among the original settlers of Vermont. His paternal great-grandfather was a soldier of the Revolutionary war. The grandfather, Simeon Crosby, was a native of Connecticut and a pioneer of Ontario county, New York, where the father of our subject, Captain Simeon Crosby, was born and reared. There he married Roxey Pitts, a native of Bristol, New York, and a daughter of Henry Pitts. In 1830, soon after his marriage, Captain

Crosby removed to Summit county, Ohio, of which he became a prominent and influential citizen. He served as captain of a company in the Ohio militia. There he opened up and improved a farm, becoming a successful agriculturist and stock-dealer and drover in that state and later in Illinois, whither he removed in 1852. He settled in Tazewell county, where he improved a fine farm of four hundred and twenty acres and was also one of the most prominent and successful stock men of that county. There he spent the last years of his life and died about 1885. His first wife had passed away during their residence in Ohio, and he was later married in Indiana to a Mrs. Davis.

Our subject is the third in order of birth in the family of six sons born of the first union. The oldest, Henry Pitts, died in infancy; R. M. became a resident of Tazewell county, where he died in 1889, leaving a family of four children; Webster R., a farmer of that county, is married and has five children; S. H. makes his home in Tazewell county, and has a family of six children; and Vernon C. continued to reside on the old homestead after his marriage and there died in April, 1899.

In his native state Russell W. Crosby grew to manhood. He attended the neighboring schools and assisted his father in carrying on the farm and in handling stock. He was a young man of eighteen years when the family came to this state, and he bore an active part in the development of the home farm in Tazewell county, where he remained until thirty-two years of age. On the 27th of October, 1869, in Medina county, Ohio, he led to the marriage altar Miss Emma C. Hard, who was born in that county and was educated in Wadsworth Acade-



my. Prior to her marriage she successfully engaged in teaching school for some years in Ohio and Tazewell county, Illinois. Her father, L. N. Hard, is a native of Vermont and a son of Abraham Hard, who was of English parentage and who emigrated to Ohio in 1816, becoming one of the first settlers of Medina county, where he cleared and developed a farm. There L. N. Hard was reared, his education being obtained in the Medina County Academy. In early life he learned the carpenter's and joiner's trade and was afterward successfully engaged in contracting and building, but is now living retired in Wadsworth, Ohio. He married Rebecca Snyder, who was born in Pennsylvania but was principally reared and educated in Ohio.

After his marriage Mr. Crosby located on a farm near the old homestead in Tazewell county, where he was successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising for several years. He also shipped stock for seven years and steadily prospered in his undertakings. Upon his place he erected a pleasant residence, two good barns, set out an orchard, shade trees and small fruit, and made many other valuable improvements, so that he had one of the most desirable farms of the locality. Selling that property in 1891 he moved to Saybrook the following year, and purchased a good home. For five years he practically lived retired, though he handled some real estate and owned three different farms. In 1897 he again embarked in the stock business, buying, feeding and dealing in stock, and now handles ten car loads of cattle and hogs annually. Besides his property in the village, he now owns a three hundred and twenty acre-farm in White county, Indiana, which is a well-improved and valuable place.

Politically Mr. Crosby has been a lifelong Republican, casting his first presidential ballot for Fremont in 1856 and supporting Lincoln in 1860. He always discharges his duties at the polls and at local elections votes for the man whom he believes qualified to fill the office regardless of party affiliations. For three years he served as a member of the school board, but has never cared for official position, desiring rather to give his full time and attention to his business interests. He is an upright and reliable business man, is energetic and progressive, and his success in life is attributable to his good management, enterprise and perseverance. As one of the pioneers of this state he has watched with interest its wonderful growth and development and he has never withheld his support from any enterprise which he believed would prove of public benefit. His wife is a member of the Presbyterian church, and both are held in high regard by all who know them.

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ENOS ARBOGAST is a retired farmer and honored citizen of Saybrook, who has made his home in this state since 1838 and has been a resident of McLean county since 1855. He was born in Clark county, Ohio, October 13, 1825, a son of Henry and Mary (Huffman) Arbogast, natives of Virginia, where their marriage was celebrated. Soon after that event they removed to Ohio and were among the first settlers of Clark county, where the father cleared the timber from a tract of land, and in the midst of the wilderness developed a farm. In 1838 he brought his family to Illinois and purchased a small farm in De Witt county, where he also entered land from the government, becoming the owner of a place of five hundred



acres, upon which he spent his last years, dying there in 1879. His wife had passed away some years previously. In his family were fourteen children, seven sons and seven daughters, of whom the following are still living: Henry, Daniel, Enos, Mrs. Elizabeth Van Devender, Mrs. Lydia Ann Wood and Mrs. Mary McKinley.

Enos Arbogast was a lad of thirteen years when he came with the family to Illinois, and in DeWitt county he grew to manhood, giving his father the benefit of his labors upon the home farm until twenty-four years of age. He was married in De Witt county, in October, 1849, to Miss Mary Morgan, a native of Tennessee and a daughter of Stephen Morgan, who came to this state from Tennessee but had formerly lived in Kentucky. After his marriage Mr. Arbogast operated the home farm for one year, and then came to McLean county, buying a tract of unimproved land in Cheneys Grove township, on which he moved a new log house which he had also purchased. As time passed he placed acre after acre of his farm under a high state of cultivation and was not long in transforming the wild tract into a fine farm. Upon the place he erected a good frame house, the lumber for which he hauled from Bloomington, also built a good barn and other outbuildings; set out an orchard, small fruit, shade and ornamental trees and a nice grove of walnuts by the house; and fenced and tiled his land. He met with excellent success in his farming operations and became quite well-to-do, although he started out in life for himself in rather limited circumstances. Laying aside business cares in 1894, he removed to Saybrook and has since sold his farm and purchased a nice home in the village, where he expects to spend his remain-

ing days in ease and quiet, free from the turmoil and anxiety of business life.

Mr. Arbogast's first wife died on the farm in 1870. Five children were born of that union, namely: Louisa, who married Thomas Strayor and died in Missouri, leaving six children; Lewis, a farmer of Kankakee county, Illinois; Ella, wife of Isaac Wood, whose home is near Webster City, Iowa; and Myra and Millie, who both died when young ladies. In McLean county, Mr. Arbogast was again married, July 14, 1872, his second union being with Mrs. Sophia Shaw, who was born and reared in Monroe county, Indiana. Her father, John M. Dunning, was a native of North Carolina and when a young man removed to Monroe county, Indiana, where he married Miss Sarah Wampler. He became quite a prominent farmer and merchant of that time, but finally came to McLean county, Illinois, where he spent his last days upon a farm. Mrs. Arbogast was a young lady on the removal of the family to this county, and here she gave her hand in marriage to Hiram Shaw, a farmer of Martin township, where his death occurred. By that marriage she had two sons: Alfred, a resident of Saybrook, who is married and has one daughter, Goldie; and James A., a farmer of Ford county, Illinois. Our subject has one daughter by his second union, Mary, now the wife of Truman Stark, of Des Moines, Iowa, by whom she has a daughter, Genevieve.

Originally Mr. Arbogast was a Democrat in politics, but in 1864 he voted for Abraham Lincoln, and has since been identified with the Republican party. He has never been an aspirant for political honors, though he takes a deep and commendable interest in public affairs. Both he and his

wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, with which he has been connected since the age of twenty-three years and she since fourteen years of age. Now in his declining years Mr. Arbogast can look back over an honorable and well-spent life, in which he has been faithful to every trust reposed in him, and has gained the confidence and respect of all with whom he has come in contact.

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**G**EORGE W. WHITE. For almost half a century this gentleman has resided in McLean county and his name is inseparably connected with its agricultural interests. His thoroughly American spirit and great energy has enabled him to mount from a humble position to one of affluence. One of his leading characteristics in business affairs is his fine sense of order and complete system and the habit of giving careful attention to details without which success in any undertaking is never an assured fact. He is a man of intrinsic worth, esteemed in all the relations of life, and is now one of the highly-respected citizens of Bloomington, though he still carries on his farming operations in the country.

Mr. White was born in Laramie township, Tippecanoe county, Indiana, fifteen miles from Lafayette, August 19, 1842, a son of George C. White, who was born in New York state, February 1, 1804, but in 1812, he became a resident of Springfield, Clark county, Ohio. There he was married January 18, 1827, to Miss Julia Ann Noel, a native of Randolph county, Ohio, and in 1828 they removed to Tippecanoe county, Indiana, where he engaged in farming until coming to McLean county, Illinois, in 1850. Here he entered one hundred

and sixty acres of land, and from the wild prairie developed a good farm. Most of this region at that time was still in its primitive condition, few improvements having been made and until 1853, when the Illinois Central was built, Peoria was the nearest railroad station. Mr. White devoted considerable attention to stock raising in connection with general farming, and here he prospered as time advanced, becoming the owner of four hundred acres of valuable land in McLean county. Politically, he was first a strong Whig and later a Republican, but never an aspirant for office, his time and attention being wholly taken up by his business affairs. He was an earnest Christian, being one of the first members of the Baptist church in his community. He died January 2, 1890, aged eighty-five years, eleven months and one day, having long survived his wife, who passed away March 25, 1865, aged fifty-eight years, nine months and seventeen days. Of the twelve children born to them, ten are still living, namely: Mary is the wife of John H. King, and they live in Anchor township. Harriet married Lyman Williams, who is now deceased. She makes her home in Colfax, Illinois. Rachel is the widow of Sanford Williams, and resides in Bloomington, Illinois. Malinda married John W. Abbott, and they live in Republic, Kansas. William married Miss Donovan, and they reside in Bloomington, Illinois. John married Miss Hamilton, and they live in Bloomington. Ellen married A. H. Conger, and resides at Fletcher, Blue Mound township. George W. is the subject of this sketch. Adaline married William Meyers, and they live in Centerville, South Dakota. Frank married Miss Williams, and they live in Kansas. The deceased are Eliza, who married Nel-

son Jones, who is also deceased; and Edward, who died May 24, 1888, aged forty-two years, three months and seven days, was a resident of Bloomington, Illinois.

The early education of George W. White was acquired in the common schools of Towanda, where he pursued his studies from twelve to sixteen weeks each winter until about twenty years of age, all grades being in one room. Later he attended the Wesleyan University for a time and this completed a good practical education. He remained with his father until attaining his majority, and, becoming thoroughly familiar with all the duties which fall to the lot of the agriculturist, he then embarked in farming on his own account upon a place which he purchased. He also became the owner of the old homestead. He has bought and sold quite a number of farms, and is still the owner of eleven hundred and thirty-five acres of fine farming land, all in McLean county. Stock raising and dealing has occupied a considerable portion of his time, and each year he ships many car loads of cattle and hogs to the Chicago markets. He has also given special attention to the raising of fine horses, and has made five importations of Percheron and Englishshire horses, being among the first to bring them into the county. For several years he always had from fifty to one hundred fine horses upon his place, and has done much toward raising the grade of horses in the county. Coming to Bloomington in 1896, he bought and remodeled a beautiful home at No. 106 East Chestnut street, where he now lives, but still carries on the home farm in Towanda in connection with his eldest son. While husking corn in 1863, he fired at a hawk, and the gun bursting cost him his left hand.

On the 6th of April, 1870, Mr. White married Miss Flora Raridon, who was born in Indiana, March 11, 1855. She traces her ancestry back to Jeremiah Raridon, a native of Scotland, who was the father of five children, three sons and two daughters. One of these, James Raridon, was Mrs. White's grandfather. He was born in North Carolina in 1792, and was one of the valiant defenders of the country in the war of 1812. He married Elinore Chandler, who was born in Tennessee in 1798, a daughter of David and Polly (Stuart) Chandler, who were natives of England, and the parents of seven children, four sons and three daughters. These early ancestors of Mrs. White were all either Methodists or Quakers in religious faith. Her father, James Stuart Raridon, was born in Nashville, Tennessee, May 22, 1825, and was married near Indianapolis, in Morgan county, Indiana, June 1, 1847, to Miss Martha J. Evans, who was born near that city, December 11, 1830, and was a daughter of Samuel Evans, a native of Kentucky, who died near Selma, in Lexington township, McLean county, Illinois, in 1866, at the age of sixty-two years. He was one of the leading men in organizing the Union church in Blue Mound, and was one of the mostly highly-respected and enterprising citizens of his community. His father was probably robbed and murdered while driving some horses across the country to market, as he never returned, and his mother later married John Martin. Samuel Evans was married, in 1825, to Elizabeth Smith, who was born near Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, in 1800, and died at the age of eighty-three years. Her parents, John and Elizabeth Smith, were also natives of Pennsylvania, and Methodists in religious belief. On their removal from that state to New



Albany, Indiana, a raft was constructed, and on it the household goods were floated down the Ohio river to their destination. Mrs. White's parents came to McLean county in 1858, and took up their residence in Lexington township, where the father engaged in farming until 1878, but is now living in Fairbury, Livingston county, Illinois, an honored and highly-respected citizen of that place. Our subject and his wife have a family of six children. Warren, the eldest, attended the Wesleyan University a number of terms, and later graduated from Brown's Business College. He still resides on his father's farm, occupying an elegant country home which was erected by our subject in 1882 at a cost of five thousand dollars and is one of the finest residences outside of the city in McLean county. E. Grace is at home with her parents. Maude A. has been a student in the Wesleyan University for three years. Chloe, John L. and Rolland are also at home.

Mr. White was made an Odd Fellow in Bloomington Lodge, No. 77, and later became a charter member of Towanda Lodge, No. 636, I. O. O. F., of which he was the first vice grand, and has been one of its most active and prominent members. He held the office of supervisor of his township for five years and the duties of public and private life have always been most faithfully and satisfactorily performed. He has twice been to Europe, combining business and pleasure both times, and he visited the World's Fair in Paris, in 1888, and also London and other places in England and France, but still believes that the United States is the best place to live. Travel and his social, genial nature have made him an entertaining companion, and he is a stanch and loyal friend, fond of good fellowship and devoted

to those who have his confidence. His estimable wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and to that and other churches he gives liberally.

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CHARLES W. MATHENY, a highly-respected and honored resident of Chenoa, is a native of Ohio, being born on the 29th of June, 1841, and was the first white child born in Bentonville, Adams county. He is a son of John W. and Mary (Wycoff) Matheny, of Adams county, Ohio. John was a blacksmith, and worked at his trade the greater part of his life. In 1852 he removed his family to Illinois, locating in Pleasant Hill, McLean county, where he took up one hundred and sixty acres of land. Being the first settler in this part of the country, his friends in Ohio discouraged the undertaking, arguing that he would be without neighbors, and compelled to face hardships singlehanded. They little realized the great future of this state of Illinois, and little thought that it would so soon be dotted with great cities, thriving towns and villages and waving fields of grain. After coming to Illinois, the father of our subject worked for a time at his trade, but shortly abandoned it. His age preventing his carrying on agricultural pursuits to an extensive degree, he sold his farm and purchased a smaller one which he conducted for a period, and then sold and removed into Chenoa, where he resided until his death. He was a strong adherent of the Methodist Episcopal church, and was one of its most ardent supporters. He was a hard-workingman and one whose honesty could never be doubted. A prominent member of the Republican party, which always found in him



a staunch supporter and upholder of its principles. He died in 1895, at the age of eighty years, and his wife in 1890, in her seventy-sixth year.

The gentleman whose name introduces this review, is one of six children, and is third in order of birth. He was reared and educated in McLean county, being but eleven years of age when his parents came to Illinois. Four years of his life, after reaching this state, were devoted to breaking prairie land and farming, and the following thirteen years were spent on a farm in Lawndale which he inherited from his father. At the expiration of this time he removed to Fulton county, Illinois, and purchased eighty acres of timber land, which he improved and built upon. Here he lived for thirteen years, selling at the end of that time, and removing to Chenoa, where he has since lived a retired life. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and politically, is a Republican. He has held a number of positions in public office, and at one time was elected justice of the peace, but was not qualified.

On the 22d of September, 1861, Mr. Matheny was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Williams, a daughter of John and Nancy Williams. She is a native of Winnebago county, born June 13, 1838, and was the first white child born in that county. Mr. and Mrs. Matheny are the parents of six children, namely: Leola Salena, deceased; William L., deceased; Charles, deceased; Andrew N.; and Myrtle, also deceased. When war was declared between Spain and the United States, and a call for volunteers was issued, William L., the eldest son of our subject, responded, enlisting in Company F, Third Illinois Volunteer Infantry, under Captain Reno,

Colonel Bennett commanding. He received his death in Porto Rico, whether his regiment had been sent, a martyr to the cause of humanity which his country had so gallantly espoused.

Mr. and Mrs. Matheny are members of the Methodist Episcopal church in full membership, and are prominent in all its charitable and social organizations. They are popular residents of Chenoa, and their hospitable home is always open to their friends and acquaintances.

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DAVID HURLEY, a well-known lumber merchant and influential citizen of Saybrook, is a native of Illinois, born in DeWitt county, December 2, 1833, and is a worthy representative of one of the prominent pioneer families of this state, being a son of Dennis Hurley, the first settler of Hurley's Grove, DeWitt county, where he located in 1829. The father was born in New Jersey, and was a son of James Hurley, also a native of that state. When a young man Dennis Hurley went to Ohio, where he was united in marriage with Miss Mary Connell of that state. As pioneers of Illinois, they experienced all of the trials and hardships incident to life on the frontier. They were living in their little log cabin, sixteen by sixteen feet, at Hurley's Grove, near Farmer City, during the "winter of the deep snow." That whole winter the family lived wholly on corn bread, the meal being made by pounding the corn in the end of a log, and wild game, such as venison, turkey and prairie chickens, which at that time could be obtained in abundance. The first church services held in the neighborhood were conducted in the log cabin of Mr. Hurley once a month, but

finally a log house was built and meetings were held there. The father succeeded in developing a fine farm from the wild land, and near Farmer City spent the remainder of his life.

Amid pioneer scenes David Hurley grew to manhood, becoming a self-educated as well as a self-made man. He remained at home with his parents until his marriage, which was celebrated in DeWitt county, March 2, 1854, the lady of his choice being Miss Lucinda E. Packwell, who was born and reared in Tennessee. They began their domestic life upon a farm near Farmer City, where he successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1871. He then came to Saybrook, McLean county, where for the first two years he engaged in teaming, and then in partnership with a Mr. Reddick embarked in the lumber business, on a small scale, under the firm name of Reddick & Hurley. Three years' later our subject bought out Mr. Reddick's interest and has since been alone. He has enlarged his business from time to time to meet the growing demands of his trade, and now carries a large stock of lumber and building material of all kinds, handling lime, cement and plaster by the car load. He has gained an enviable reputation for good goods and fair dealing, and has succeeded in building up an excellent trade. He is one of the most enterprising and progressive business men of Saybrook, and has materially advanced the interests of the town by the erection of three good residences, which he still owns.

In response to his country's call for aid during the civil war, Mr. Hurley enlisted August 2, 1862, in Company I, One Hundred and Seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, under command of Colonel Snell. He

participated in the engagement at Huff's Ferry, the siege of Knoxville, Tennessee; Sherman campaign in Georgia, including the battles of Buzzard Roost, Dalton, Resaca and Kenesaw mountain, and the siege of Atlanta; with his command he then returned to Tennessee in pursuit of Hood, and took part in the battles of Franklin and Nashville. He was also in a large number of smaller engagements and skirmishes, being always found at his post of duty, valiantly defending the old flag and the cause it represented. He underwent all the hardships and privations of army life, and for a short time was ill in the hospital at Atlanta. When hostilities ceased and his services were no longer needed, he was honorably discharged at Salisbury, North Carolina, and returned home.

Mr. Hurley lost his first wife December 2, 1883. She left two daughters, Levina, wife of C. P. Easterbrook, a prominent business man of Saybrook; and Harriet, wife of H. F. Plummer, of San Jose, California. In Syracuse, New York, Mr. Hurley was again married, in 1885, his second union being with Betsy E. Hughson, who was born, reared and educated in that state.

Religiously, Mr. Hurley has been an active and prominent member of the Methodist Episcopal church for many years, having served as class leader for nearly forty years. Socially, he is also quite prominent and is past master in the Masonic Lodge, past grand in the Odd Fellows Lodge, and also an honored member of the Knights of Pythias. His political support has ever been given the Republican party since casting his first presidential vote for John C. Fremont in 1856, and he has most creditably served his fellow citizens as a

member of the village board. He has made for himself an honorable business record, and by his well-directed efforts has acquired a comfortable competence. As a citizen, friend and neighbor he is true to every duty and justly merits the esteem in which he is held.

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EDWARD BYERS, a pioneer of Champaign county, Illinois, but who has been a resident of McLean county for nearly half a century, is a native of Ohio, born March 1, 1826, and is a son of Isaac Byers, a blacksmith by trade, and who followed that occupation, in connection with farming, for many years. About 1836, he came with his family from Ohio, locating in Champaign county, which was his home during the remainder of his life.

The subject of this sketch was ten years old when he accompanied his parents to Champaign county. He remained there until he attained his majority, and assisted his father in opening up and developing the farm. His educational advantages were rather limited, but he made the best use of them possible, and is now a well-informed man. Soon after attaining his majority he was united in marriage with Miss Clara Hempenstall, also a native of Ohio. He then engaged in farming in Champaign county, in which occupation he was employed until 1852, when, in company with his wife and other families, he started across the plains for Oregon. While *en route* his wife sickened and died on the plains. He then returned to his home in Champaign county, where he remained a short time, and in 1852 came to McLean county, locating on the place where he now resides. About one year later he married Mrs. Anna Ball, who was born near

New Albany, Indiana, and who came with her father, Robert Cunningham, to McLean county. This was in pioneer times, Mr. Cunningham being one of the very earliest settlers of the eastern part of McLean county. Here she grew to womanhood and married Henry Ball, who entered the land and opened up the farm which is now occupied by our subject. He was a native of Kentucky. After residing here a few years, he lost his health, and with a view of its restoration, he took his bride to Kentucky. The trip was, however, without avail, as he continued to grow worse, died, and was there buried. Mrs. Ball then returned to Illinois, and again took up her life on the home farm near Saybrook.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Byers took up their home and began their domestic life on the farm where he now resides. It is a fine farm of one hundred and fifty-five acres in and adjoining the corporate limits of Saybrook. Here he has since continued to reside, and upon the place has made many improvements. Mrs. Byers died upon the home farm July 8, 1897, and her remains were laid to rest in the cemetery at Saybrook. She was the mother of three children, of whom but one now survives: Nelson, who is a young man of good business ability, has now charge of the home farm, which he keeps under a high state of cultivation. Julia grew to womanhood, but is now deceased. Melvina died in early childhood.

Politically, Mr. Byers has been identified with the Democratic party during his entire life. He has never desired office, and has never given of his time in public office. His son is also a Democrat. Religiously, he is connected with the United Brethren church of Saybrook, of which his wife is



also a member. His residence of sixty-three years has brought him in contact with many of the best people of the state, and the changes that have occurred in that time are indeed remarkable. He has lived to see wild game of all kinds disappear and to see the whole country dotted over with cities, villages, farm houses, churches and school houses, and his adopted county covered by a perfect network of railroads, making every part easily accessible. In the work that has been accomplished he has borne his part.

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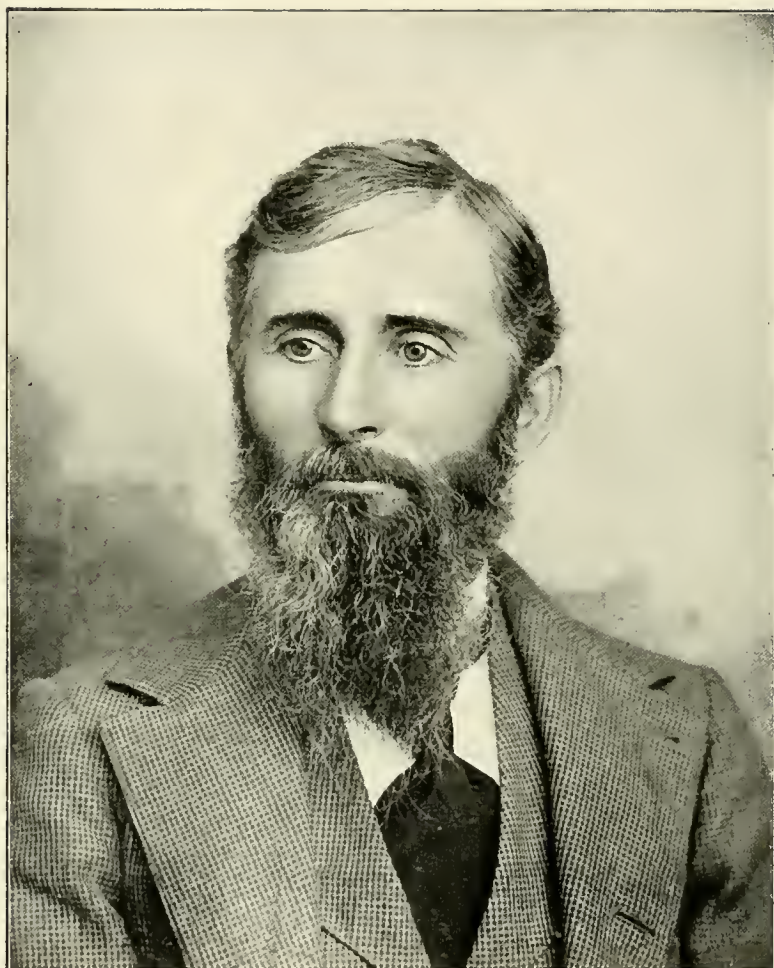
ASA W. SKINNER. The world instinctively pays deference to the man whose success has been worthily achieved, who has acquired a high reputation in his chosen calling and whose social prominence is not less the result of an irreproachable life than of recognized natural gifts. It is a pleasing indulgence to write the biography of a man of this character, such as Mr. Skinner is known to be. He is one of the most highly esteemed citizens of Hudson, and is a prominent factor in business circles.

He was born at Clay Lick, Licking county, Ohio, July 21, 1852, a son of Mark and Martha (Kennedy) Skinner. His father was born in Fauquier county, Virginia, February 24, 1824, and was a child of only five years when he removed to Licking county, Ohio, with his parents, Asa W. and Martha (Haley) Skinner. There he continued to make his home until the fall of 1853, when he came to Illinois. After spending the winter at Sand Prairie, Tazewell county, in the spring of 1854, he removed to this county and located on section 26, Hudson township, where he devoted the remainder of his life to farming, dying

there June 11, 1877. He was one of the influential and prominent citizens of his community, but outside of school positions he would never accept public office. For many years he was a member of the school board and was active in organizing the school in his district, which is still known as the Skinner district, being named in his honor. He was one of the principal promoters in its organization and the first school election was held at his house. He also assisted in the formation of the Republican party in his locality and remained one of its staunch adherents. In religious faith he was a Baptist, and in early life held membership in the Masonic fraternity. His wife survived him several years, dying in February, 1891. All of their seven children, four sons and three daughters, are still living, namely: Albert a resident of Normal; Asa W., our subject; Elizabeth A., wife of W. H. Shiner, of Hudson; Mary C., wife of C. Frederick Bishop, of Woolstock, Iowa; John C., a school teacher and traveling salesman of Hartsburg, Logan county, Illinois; Harvey, a farmer of Gridley, Illinois; and Malvena, wife of John Hanson, of El Paso, Illinois.

Asa W. Skinner was only fourteen months old when brought by his parents to Illinois, and has made his home almost continuously in McLean county since his second year. He was reared upon the home farm, and his early education was acquired in the common schools. At the age of nineteen he commenced teaching, and successfully engaged in educational work in McLean and Tazewell counties for ten years. In the meantime he attended the State Normal for a while, and in 1879 accepted a position as teacher in the village schools of Hudson, where he remained in charge for





A. W. SKINNER.

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two years. In the fall of 1877 he had purchased a farm adjoining his father's, and after he retired from school teaching he devoted his time and attention to the operation of that place until the fall of 1883, when he removed to Hudson, and erected a factory for the manufacture of drain tile, carrying on the same quite successfully until 1894. In 1891 he succeeded to the grain business of Hazenwinkle & Cox at Hudson, and also purchased one of their elevators, which he has since carried on. In February, 1899, his new elevator, erected only the fall previous, was destroyed by fire, but, with characteristic energy, he promptly rebuilt. He also conducts the only lumber yard in the village, and in that line has also built up an excellent trade. He is an upright, reliable and conscientious business man, and carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes. Besides the property already mentioned, he owns a good farm of three hundred and twenty acres in Woodford county, Illinois, on which is a sawmill, where he is engaged in the manufacture of lumber.

On the 31st of December, 1878, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Skinner and Miss Amanda Blough, who was born in Summerset county, Pennsylvania, December 23, 1855, a daughter of Abraham and Sally (Forney) Blough, also natives of that state. In 1866 Mr. and Mrs. Blough, with their family, removed to McLean county, and are now living in the village of Hudson, the former at the age of seventy-four years, the latter at the age of sixty-five. Of their ten children, the following are also living: William, a farmer of Benton county, Iowa; Mary, widow of Daniel Buck, of Benton county, Iowa; Amanda, wife of our subject; Belinda, wife of K. E. Stephens, of Hud-

son; Sadie, wife of James Esler, of Colfax, Illinois; Ella, wife of John Willard, of Bloomington; John W., a farmer of Hudson township; Emma, wife of Elmer Zook, of Danvers; Lydia, wife of James Barnhart, a farmer of Iowa. The children born to our subject and his wife are Guy W., Daisy A., Earl M., Asa W., Glen C. and Abe Lincoln, all at home. The last named was born on the 12th of February—the birthday of the martyr president.

In politics Mr. Skinner is independent, supporting principle rather than party. He gives his aid and influence to the temperance movement and often casts his ballot with the Prohibition party. He takes an active interest in public matters, and has filled a number of local offices, such as assessor and school trustee. He is a prominent and influential member of the Baptist church of Hudson, in which he has served for many years as deacon, and has been especially active in Sunday-school work for forty years, filling the office of superintendent the greater part of the time for the past twenty years and is the present incumbent. His support is always cheerfully given any enterprise calculated to advance the moral, social or material welfare of his town or county and he is justly numbered among the most useful and valued citizens of the community in which he lives.

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DANIEL G. O'KANE, the genial and popular proprietor of the Barker Hotel and one of the leading business men of Bloomington, has shown in his successful career that he has the ability to plan wisely and execute with energy, a combination which, when possessed by men in any walk of life, never fails to effect notable results.

Mr. O'Kane was born in county Tyrone, Ireland, June 23, 1841, and was reared as a farmer boy, remaining in his native land until twenty years of age, when he crossed the broad Atlantic and took up his residence in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. There he first found employment in the drug store of Morris, Perott & Ogden, on Market, between Sixth and Seventh streets, one of the leading drug stores of the city; but the close confinement did not agree with his health, and he was forced to give up his position at the end of a year. In the fall of 1863 he came to Ottawa, Illinois, where he worked in a brewery for fifteen or sixteen years. For a time he represented the same company on the road as a traveling salesman, and later was similarly employed by White & Henneberry. He was a very successful salesman and succeeded in accumulating considerable capital, which he invested in 1883, in the Barker House of Bloomington. This valuable property, which is near the Union depot, comprises the block between Front and Loehr streets, and the Chicago & Alton and the Big Four Railroads. Genial and pleasant in manner, Mr. O'Kane has become a very popular landlord, and his hotel is a great favorite with the traveling public. Since coming to Bloomington he has steadily prospered, and besides his hotel he now owns other property on West Front street, and an eighty-acre farm in La Salle county, Illinois.

Before leaving his native land, Mr. O'Kane was married to Miss Margaret Dugan, also a native of county Tyrone, who died in Bloomington, in June, 1898. She left two children: James, who for the past two years has been a successful agent for the Indianapolis Brewing Company; and Mollie, who is at home with her father.

The family are communicants of Holy Trinity Catholic church, and the son is a member of the Foresters and the Ancient Order of Hibernians, and an active worker in the ranks of the Democratic party.

Our subject is also an ardent advocate of the principles of the Democratic party and during his residence in Ottawa took quite a prominent and influential part in local politics, holding a number of important official positions and serving as a delegate to the different conventions of his party. In 1896 he was the Democratic candidate for alderman in the seventh ward, but as the city is strongly Republican, he was defeated and has since refused to accept official honors. As a public-spirited, progressive citizen, he gives his support to all enterprises for the good of the city, and has been very liberal in his subscriptions to new industries, giving two hundred and fifty dollars to the caramel factory, one hundred and fifty to the fair grounds and fifty to the cereal mills. He is also a stockholder in the Coliseum, and from none of these does he expect any returns. Mr. O'Kane began life in the new world on a capital of one shilling, and that he is now the possessor of a handsome income is due entirely to his own industry, perseverance and good management.

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**L**AUTON GREENE is an enterprising farmer, residing near Saybrook, in Cheney's Grove township, and is the owner of two well-improved farms. He was born in Peoria county, Illinois, March 9, 1848. His father, Isaac A. Greene, was born in Saratoga county, New York, April 28, 1808. Philip Greene, the grandfather, was born in one of the New England states, and was of



English parentage. Isaac A. Greene was reared in his native county, and there married Miss Sally Pettit, who was born May 6, 1808, in Saratoga county, New York, and a daughter of Elisha Pettit, a representative of one of the old families of that county.

After his marriage, Isaac A. Greene engaged in boating on the Erie canal, and was in that business until his removal to Peoria county, Illinois, in 1836. He there engaged in farming, at which he was quite successful, and in 1855 he removed to Marshall county, Illinois, where he continued in agricultural pursuits, opening up two or three farms. He later removed to the village of Henry, and with his brothers engaged in the banking business, and also engaged in partnership with his brothers in the lumber business. He continued in that line for some years, and then removed to Saybrook, where his death occurred August 24, 1896, at the age of eighty-nine years. His wife also died in Saybrook some two years previously, and their remains were interred in the cemetery at that place. They were the parents of nine sons, of whom five grew to mature years, though but three are now living. Oscar A. resides in Bloomington, where he is living a retired life. W. L. makes his home in Saybrook. Lauton is the subject of this sketch. Loren, a twin brother of Lauton, died when fourteen years old. E. P. grew to manhood, and enlisted in Company B, Eighty-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and served until disabled by sickness, when he received a furlough, returned home, and was soon afterward discharged. He some years later married, and spent his last years in Marshall county.

The subject of this sketch spent his youth in Marshall county, and in the common schools and high school of Henry received

his education. He remained with his father until he reached man's estate, and on the 22d of July, 1874, was united in marriage with Miss Marianna Clark, who was born in Bureau county, Illinois, but reared in Marshall county. Her father, Stephen M. Clark, came west from Rhode Island, in an early day, located in Bureau county, Illinois, where he became an extensive farmer and stock raiser. He later moved to the village of Henry, Marshall county, in order to educate his children, and there lived a retired life. He died in that village, June 22, 1874. His wife died while the family were yet living in Bureau county.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Greene took up their residence on a farm of eighty acres near the village of Henry, and there remained for several years. In 1883 he sold that place and moved to McLean county, purchasing a farm of two hundred acres near the village of Saybrook. After residing there a few years he traded the place, and has since made several trades, and now owns two farms, comprising two hundred and seventy acres of well improved land. He is rated among the well-to-do and successful farmers of the township and county.

To Mr. and Mrs. Greene two children were born. Maude is the wife of James Ruggles, and they have one daughter, Jenea Adella. He is one of the prominent business men of Saybrook. Harry is a young man and yet remains at home, assisting his father in managing the home farm. He received a good education in the schools of Saybrook.

Politically Mr. Greene is a staunch and true blue Republican, his first presidential ballot being cast for Gen. Grant in 1872. He is a member of the Saybrook Methodist

Episcopal church, as is also his wife. Both have the confidence and respect of the entire community, and are well known in the eastern part of the county.

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JOSEPH TOWNSEND, a well-known citizen of Bloomington, is the master car builder for the Chicago & Alton Railroad, with which he has been connected since March, 1880, and is one of its most trusted employes. He eminently deserves classification among the purely self-made men who have distinguished themselves for their ability to master the opposing forces of life and to wrest from fate a large measure of success and an honorable name. He had his nativity encompassed by those environments which have ever fostered the spirit of personal independence and self-reliance which have furnished the bulwarks of our national prosperity and wonderful industrial development.

Mr. Townsend was born in Rugby, England, November 15, 1825, and is a son of Henry and Mary (Fall) Townsend, also natives of Rugby, where the father was proprietor of a large carriage factory for some time. About 1828, with his wife and seven children, he emigrated to America and first located in Albany, New York. He spent some time there and in Troy, but when our subject was eight years old, removed to Utica, New York, where he carried on business as a house carpenter until his death, which occurred in 1838 or 1839. The mother survived him for many years and died in the same city at the age of eighty-six. Both were Episcopalians in early life, but becoming dissatisfied with the high church, they united with the Methodist Episcopal denomination. The mater-

nal grandfather of our subject, William Fall, spent his entire life in Rugby, England.

Joseph Townsend attended the common schools at Utica, New York, until ten years of age, when he was whipped unmercifully by the teacher for writing with his left hand, as he was left-handed, and as his father whipped him for staying away from school, he left home and found shelter with a Mr. Steele, a farmer of Steele's Hill, just outside the city limits. With that gentleman he remained for seven years and five months, during which time he attended school during the winter months. Here he had a good home and careful training.

Later Mr. Townsend served a three-years apprenticeship to the carpenter's trade in Utica, receiving his board and thirty dollars the first year, forty-five dollars the second, and sixty the third. After working for a short time in that city, he went to Oneida, New York, and entered the repairing department of the car shops of the Syracuse & Utica Railroad, now the New York Central. While there he was married, December 18, 1848, to Miss Amy Wratten, of Utica, a daughter of Jacob Wratten, who was also of English birth and with whom our subject learned his trade. They began their domestic life in Oneida, where Mr. Townsend built for himself a good home. Four children blessed that union, namely: James A., who now has charge of the car department and round house for the Chicago & Alton Railroad at Kansas City; Elizabeth, wife of L. B. Barnard, of Kansas City, Kansas; Frankie, of Lyons, Iowa; and Julia, wife of Henry McGrew, of Wyandotte, Kansas. The wife and mother died at Wyandotte and our subject later married Mrs. Harriet Allen, of Bloomington.

On first coming west Mr. Townsend lo-

cated in Adrian, Michigan, and for a year or two worked in the shops of what is now the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad, in southern Michigan and northern Indiana. He then went to Chicago, where he had charge of the car works of the same company at that end of the road for two years. At Racine, Wisconsin, he was with the Racine & Mississippi Railroad, now the Chicago & Northwestern, as general foreman, having charge of the building of cars for the new road until the breaking out of the civil war, when he resigned his position. He tried to enlist at the first call for troops, but was rejected on account of an injured ankle, and went to St. Louis, where he met the superintendent of the Northern Missouri railroad who gave him a letter to the master mechanic at St. Charles, Missouri, and transportation to that place. He remained there for two years, during which time he was offered a position on the Hannibal & St. Joe Railroad, which he refused. For one year he was general foreman of the car building department of the Iron Mountain Railroad under John Hewitt, and then as the Chicago & Great Eastern wanted him he went to Richmond, Indiana, as master car builder, building new cars for that line during the short time he remained with the company. He was next called to Wyandotte, Kansas, as master car builder for the Kansas & Pacific Railroad at Kansas City, Kansas, where he remained some years. He became one of the leading and prominent citizens of the place, and was called upon to serve as alderman. His next position was with the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad, under R. S. Stevens, general manager, at Junction City, but during the six years he remained with that company the headquarters of the road were changed to Sedalia,

Missouri, though his residence remained in Wyandotte, Kansas. When Mr. Stevens entered the service of the Hannibal & St. Joe Railroad our subject accompanied him to Hannibal. Later he was with the central branch of the Union Pacific at Atchison, Kansas, as master car builder, and in March, 1880, came to Bloomington to accept his present position, which he has since so efficiently and satisfactorily filled. Here he has charge of all the new work and the repairing, has overseen the building of thousands of cars, and has about two hundred and fifty men working under him. He is one of the best known and most reliable men with the Chicago & Alton road, and is also well and favorably known throughout the city of Bloomington, where he has made many warm friends, who appreciate his sterling worth.

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#### PROFESSOR ROBERT O. GRAHAM.

Men of marked ability, forceful character and culture leave their impress upon the world, written in such indelible characters that time is powerless to obliterate their memory or sweep it from the minds of men. Their commendable acts live long after they have passed from the scene of their early careers. Professor Graham, who is now filling the chair of chemistry in the Wesleyan University, has identified himself prominently in many ways with the development and prosperity of Bloomington, where he has made his home for the past eleven years, and has taken an active part in the development of the university and of the city.

The Professor was born in Butler county, Pennsylvania, January 10, 1853, a son of Malcolm and Mary (Boggs) Graham. The



father was also a native of Pennsylvania, born February 22, 1820, not far from the birthplace of our subject, and there he was reared as a farmer boy. After his marriage he lived on a farm, but having learned the trade of a carpenter he followed contracting and building. About 1865 he moved to New Brighton, Pennsylvania, where he was an extensive builder for a number of years, but later as a contractor was interested in railroad work, putting in turntables, etc., for the Pennsylvania Railroad. He also rebuilt the Butler County Court House and erected several of the largest churches at Butler, having a large force of men in his employ. During his last years he engaged in the same business at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, his home being in Wilkinsburg, where he died in August, 1896. In the country he filled the office of justice of the peace for a time, and was an elder in the United Presbyterian church, of which he was an active and influential member. The mother, who is still living in Wilkinsburg, was born near Evans City, Butler county, in 1827, and is a daughter of James Boggs, a farmer by occupation and a representative of an old and well-known Scotch-Irish family. On the paternal side our subject is also of Scotch descent, his great-great-grandfather, Malcolm Graham, having spent his entire life in Scotland. The great-grandfather, who also bore the name of Malcolm, emigrated to America with his family during the childhood of his son Joseph, the grandfather of our subject.

Doctor Graham is the third in order of birth in a family of seven children, the others being as follows: Levenia is the wife of Frederick Buhl, of Evans City, Pennsylvania, a brother of the Mr. Buhl of the firm of Boggs & Buhl, of Allegheny; Agnes is the

wife of Herbert Harper, a merchant of Butler, and a representative of a prominent family of that city; Curtis A. is a prominent contractor and builder of Wilkinsburg; Leilia is the wife of George Denholm, a grocer of East End, Pittsburg; James L. is the Pittsburg representative of a Philadelphia tea and coffee house; and Ada married James Wilson, a wealthy and prominent citizen of Wilkinsburg, who is owner of large planing mill interests there. Mrs. Wilson died in 1888, leaving one daughter, May, a student in the Baltimore Female College.

Professor Graham pursued his studies in country schools for some time, and for two years attended the academy at Prospect, Pennsylvania. In 1865, at the age of twelve, he entered the Iron City Business College, Pittsburg, where he completed the prescribed business course. After the removal of the family to New Brighton, he attended the high school there, and prepared for college in Witherspoon Academy when the family located in Butler. He then entered the freshman year at Amherst College, where he was graduated in 1877, with the degree of B. A. He was a member of the Delta Upsilon Fraternity and of the Phi Beta Kappa, and was a member of the first Walker division made up of the first ten men selected on examination at the close of Freshman year, to be given special advantages in mathematics. After leaving that institution he taught at Monson Academy, Massachusetts, for one year, and was then elected to the chair of chemistry at Westminster College, New Wilmington, Pennsylvania. The second fall after his graduation, he took a post graduate course in chemistry at Amherst and secured the M. A. degree. He continued teaching at



Westminster until 1886, and then, being granted a year's leave of absence, he entered Johns Hopkins University, where he further pursued his studies in chemistry. At the end of the year Professor Remsen gave him the encouragement that he could complete his work for the Ph. D. degree in another year, and he therefore resigned his professorship at Westminster College and completed the course, being granted the degree in May, 1888. While a student there he took as his thesis subject a study of Diazo compound, and in conjunction with Professor Remsen, prepared a treatise thereon, which was published in the American Chemical Journal, and extracts therefrom in the German "Berichte."

Immediately thereafter, Doctor Graham was tendered a position at St. John's College, Annapolis, Maryland, and at the same time was elected to the professorship of chemistry at the Illinois Wesleyan University. He accepted the latter and came to Bloomington. On his arrival here the college had but one small chemical laboratory; but it now has three good ones, supplied with several thousand dollars worth of chemical apparatus. One of these is a research laboratory, the property of our subject, he having been interested in the same in connection with Henry S. Swayne. It, together with a good chemical library, was given to Professor Graham by Mr. Swayne's widow, a daughter of the late Judge David Davis, on the death of her husband. In connection with his work in the college, the board has made him dean of the graduate department; and in 1897-8 he was elected acting president of the college. Doctor Graham has had charge of all the work in legal chemistry and expert chemistry for court and criminal cases, and has had a

large practice in mineral, water and soil analyses. The present year the college has given him an assistant in chemistry that he may give time to the editing of The Winonian, together with W. P. Kane, D.D., formerly of Bloomington. The Winonian is a monthly magazine on the Chautauqua plan, and, being practically the Presbyterian Chautauquan, it is largely subscribed for by Presbyterians, as also by other families. Professor Graham was made one of the three directors, and treasurer of the Winona Publishing Company, and is also treasurer of the University Press, which publishes the Winonian and does all the college publishing as well as outside work. He is one of the directors, and treasurer, of the Lilly Orchard Company, of Lilly, Illinois, where the company has a three-hundred-and-forty-acre orchard containing at present fifteen thousand trees. He was one of the organizers of this company, which has met with well-merited success.

Dr. Graham has ever taken an active interest in public affairs; and by the mayor of Bloomington was appointed one of the directors of the Withers public library when it came into the possession of the city in 1893, and served as chairman of the library committee which had charge of the purchase of books and magazines until the present year, when he was elected president. It is one of the best libraries found in any city of its size in the country, has an income of eight thousand dollars a year, and is well patronized. The Professor has also taken much interest in city affairs along sanitary lines, especially with respect to the water used and the local drainage, and has written many articles on the same for the Pantagraph and local papers, which have done much to develop a plan to protect the

water basin. He was elected a member of the city council from the sixth ward in 1897 for a two-years term, and both years was elected acting mayor by that body. He was re-elected to that body in 1899. He was also elected chairman of the water board and a member of the finance and light committees. Politically he is a Republican, and socially is a member of the Royal Arcanum. He is also a member of the College Alumni Club of Bloomington, which is limited to forty-five members and whose membership now represents twenty-two colleges. He, with Dr. Dinsmore and Professor Moss, of the State University, and Professor Heidel, of Beloit College, Wisconsin, organized this now noted club, and he has held in turn every office of the same, and has represented the club as orator before the Literary Congress. He belongs to the Longfellow Club and is also a member of the American Chemical Society, and in literary and educational circles occupies an enviable position. He is a pleasant and genial gentleman, and has an extensive circle of friends and acquaintances, by whom he is held in high esteem.

In 1881 Professor Graham was united in marriage with Miss Ella Campbell, of New Wilmington, Pennsylvania, a daughter of Rev. William A. Campbell, and they now have two sons, Chester Campbell and Roland Boswell. The family have a pleasant home at No. 1108 North East street, and the parents are active and prominent members of the Second Presbyterian church, in which Professor Graham has served as superintendent of the Sunday-school for two years, and is now a teacher. Mrs. Graham is a lady of culture and refinement, a graduate of Westminster College, and has also spent one year in the Boston Conservatory

of Music. She and her two boys are at present pursuing their studies in Leipsic, Germany. She is vice-president and one of the most active workers in the Amateur Musical Club of Bloomington, and is quite prominent in musical circles. She has served as president of the Ladies Aid Society, connected with the Young Men's Christian Association, and is a member of the Margaret Fuller Club and the Longfellow Club, both literary organizations.

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WILLIAM E. CUNNINGHAM, one of the honored pioneers and highly-respected citizens of Cheney's Grove township, McLean county, his home being on section 22, has been a resident of the county for seventy years. The difference between the past and the present can scarcely be realized, even by those who have been active participants in the development of the county. The present generation can have no conception of what was required by the early settlers in transforming the wilderness into a well-settled and highly-cultivated county.

Mr. Cunningham was born in Clarke county, Indiana, May 11, 1826, but since October, 1829, he has made his home in this county. His father, Robert Cunningham, was born in North Carolina, June 3, 1780, and was a son of Joseph Cunningham, also a native of that state, who in 1788 moved with his family to Virginia. In the Old Dominion Robert grew to manhood and married Miss Aphia Cleveland, a native of New York. With them his mother, who bore the maiden name of Green, made her home for many years and died in Illinois, being the first to be laid to rest in the old Cheney's Grove township cemetery.

After his marriage Robert Cunningham removed to Indiana and located near Albany, where he was engaged in freighting and hauling goods from Louisville to Terre Haute for twenty years. He served as a soldier in the early Indian wars under General Harrison, and was in the battle of Tippecanoe. In 1829 he came to Illinois and in October took up his residence in Cheney's Grove, McLean county, his being the third family to locate there. Later he built a gristmill on the Sangamon river about 1831 or 1832. He put in operation a sawmill in 1838, which he conducted for a number of years. He also took up about four hundred acres of government land adjoining the farm where our subject now resides and engaged in agricultural pursuits. Upon his place he built a good hewed-log house, in which the family lived for several years while he opened up his farm. There he continued to make his home until near his death, which occurred September 28, 1858, and his wife passed away in April, 1859. To them were born fifteen children, five sons and ten daughters, and the parents lived to see all grown and married. Of this family, four sons and four daughters are still living.

William E. Cunningham passed his boyhood and youth on the home farm, surrounded by scenes very common in pioneer life, and he assisted his father in the arduous task of transforming the wild land into rich and productive fields. He had comparatively no school advantages and is almost wholly self-educated. In Moultrie county, Illinois, he was married November 6, 1849, to Miss Irena Cunningham, a native of Indiana and a daughter of Joseph Cunningham. She died on the 26th of April, 1887. Of the eight children born to them, four are

still living, namely: Joseph, who is married and resides at Grand Junction, Iowa; George T., who now conducts the home farm for his father; P. D., a resident of Saybrook; and Ella, wife of J. K. Follick, of Ford county. Those deceased were: David, who died in childhood; Albert, who died at about the age of ten years; Cora L., who died when about one year old; and Naomi B., who died at the age of two years.

When a young man, Mr. Cunningham entered forty acres of land adjoining his father's farm, and upon that place he and his wife began their domestic life in a small frame house which he erected thereon in 1850, and on the 8th day of August he and his wife moved in, and it has been his home ever since. He hewed the sills, cut the logs, and helped saw the lumber at his father's saw-mill. Their eight children were born in the same house and four of them died in it, and also the mother. Later he entered forty acres more, and by purchase has added to his farm until he now has one hundred and sixty acres of valuable land, on which he has erected good and substantial buildings, set out an orchard and made many other improvements which add greatly to the value and beauty of the place. Mr. Cunningham has experienced all the hardships and difficulties of pioneer life. In early days he made two or three trips to Chicago to market his farm produce. When he first came to the county Indians were often seen, deer, wolves and wild game of all kinds abounded, and much of the county was a vast wilderness and swamp. The few settlements were widely scattered and the country was still in its primitive condition. In the work of development and progress he has borne an active part, and



his name should be among the foremost on the rolls of McLean county's honored pioneers. He is a consistent and faithful member of the United Brethren church of Saybrook, and he has been a staunch supporter of the Democratic party and its principles since casting his first presidential vote for Franklin Pierce in 1852. He has served as a member of the school board, but has never sought public office.

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JACOB WYCKOFF is a representative and influential citizen of Arrowsmith township, who is now living retired upon his farm on section 22, but was for many years actively identified with the agricultural interests of McLean county. In his labors he met with well-deserved success which has enabled him to lay aside all business cares and spend his declining years in ease and quiet.

Mr. Wyckoff was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, September 29, 1840, a son of Matthew and Nancy (Finckbone) Wyckoff. The father was born in Virginia, August 27, 1814, and was the oldest in a family of eight children. His father, Simon Wyckoff, a farmer by occupation, was also a native of the Old Dominion, whither he removed to Ohio when Matthew was a lad of eight years and settled in Fairfield county, where the son grew to manhood and was educated. In 1861, at the opening of the civil war, Matthew Wyckoff enlisted in an Ohio regiment, but after serving nine months, during which time he participated in the battle of Shiloh, he was honorably discharged on account of physical disability. Returning to his home in Ohio, he resumed his farming operations there, but on the 1st of March,

1864, came to McLean county, Illinois, and located in Empire township, near Le Roy, where he continued to engage in agricultural pursuits until two years previous to his death, when he removed to Le Roy, living retired at that place until called to his final rest, September 25, 1878. His first wife, and the mother of our subject, was born in Ohio, October 5, 1817, and was a daughter of Jacob Finckbone, a native of Pennsylvania, who at an early day removed to Ohio and followed farming there until his death. She died September 10, 1868, and for his second wife Matthew Wyckoff married Mrs. Hannah Swartz, of Missouri. All of his children, nine in number, were born of the first union, and were as follows: William; Elizabeth S., deceased; Jacob; Susan; Caroline; Elizabeth; John; Mary C., and Stephen.

In the county of his nativity, Jacob Wyckoff, our subject, passed the days of his boyhood and youth in much the usual manner of farmer boys of his day, and after leaving school worked by the month as a farm hand there until coming west in 1864. On the 4th of December, 1863, he was united in marriage with Miss Margaret J. Stauffer, who was born in Licking county, Ohio, September 8, 1841, a daughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth (Haggy) Stauffer, both natives of Switzerland. The father followed the trade of a carpenter throughout life. After residing in Ohio for several years he removed to California, and during the civil war belonged to a California regiment known as the Mounted Dragoons, which was in service on the western plains. He was commissioned lieutenant-colonel of his regiment and served with distinction in the volunteer army of his adopted country. He was born March 25, 1813, and died in July, 1894, while his wife was born March



31, 1817, and died October 14, 1889. To them were born nine children, of whom Mrs. Wyckoff is third in order of birth.

The children born to our subject and his wife are as follows: Lillis is now the wife of Elmer Brown, of Saybrook, Illinois, and they have two children, Clyde and Lillard; Charles is engaged in the mercantile business in Arrowsmith; William, a farmer of West township, married Lillian Moxie and they have three children, Clare, Lola and Harland; Mollie is the wife of John Rodman, a farmer of Foosland, Champaign county, Illinois; Carl is engaged in business with his brother in Arrowsmith; and Pearl is at home with her parents.

Leaving his old home in Ohio, Mr. Wyckoff came west with his father in 1864 and located in Empire township, McLean county, Illinois, where he remained for two years. During the following three years he rented a farm of James Love in West township, and then removed to Arrowsmith township, where he purchased forty acres of land in March, 1892. Upon that place which is near the village of Arrowsmith he has erected a fine residence and engaged in the grain business at that place for six years with good success, but is now living retired. Besides his property here he owns two hundred and forty acres on section, 1 and 2, West township, which is now operated by his son, William.

In his political views, Mr. Wyckoff is a stanch Democrat and taking a deep interest in educational affairs, he most efficiently served as school director in Arrowsmith township for nine years. Socially he belongs to Arrowsmith Lodge, No. 737, F. & A. M., and religiously his wife is a member of the Baptist church of that place. They are held in high regard by all who have the pleasure

of their acquaintance and have many warm friends in the community where they make their home.

DAVID M. MATTHEWS, who resides on section 23, Cheney's Grove township, is a representative farmer of McLean county in every sense of the word, industrious and enterprising, and one who believes in keeping up with the times. He was born in Morgan county, Illinois, March 9, 1843, and is the son of Israel Matthews, a native of Virginia, born in 1812, and the grandson of Levi Matthews, who was probably a native of the same state. When a young man Israel Matthews went to Ohio and located in Pike county, where he married Miss Jane Caudy, a native of Virginia, and daughter of David Caudy, who was an early settler in Pike county, Ohio, from Virginia.

Soon after his marriage Israel Matthews moved with his young bride to Morgan county, Illinois. This was about 1836. On locating there he purchased government land and opened up a farm of four hundred and forty acres, and became one of the most successful farmers of that county. He continued to reside on that farm the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1892, at the age of eighty years. He was twice married, his first wife dying in 1847. She was the mother of three children. John grew to manhood, married, and continued to reside in Morgan county, where his death occurred some years ago. David M., the second born, is the subject of this sketch. Zacharias is a resident of Oklahoma territory. By his second union Israel Matthews became also the father of three children. H. Frank makes his home in

Lincoln, Illinois. May Allie married Daniel Spangler, of Lincoln, Illinois. Eledith is the wife of Frank Turley, also of Lincoln, Illinois.

David M. Matthews spent his boyhood and youth on the old farm in Logan county, where his parents moved when he was seven years of age, and assisted in its cultivation from the time he was old enough to be of any service. His education, obtained in the common-schools, was principally secured by attendance during the winter months. In August, 1862, answering the call of the President of the United States and the Governor of his own state, he enlisted in Company C, One Hundred and Sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and with his regiment went to the front. During his term of service he was actively engaged, and lost but little time by sickness. Among the engagements in which with his regiment he participated were the battle of Jackson, Tennessee, and the siege of Vicksburg. From the latter place the regiment was sent to Little Rock, Arkansas, and assisted in the capture of that place. It was next in the engagement at Clarindon, on the White river, and then in the battle of Duval's Bluff. It continued in the service, principally in Arkansas, until in August, 1865, when it was mustered out at Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and sent to Springfield, Illinois, for final discharge.

After receiving his discharge, Mr. Matthews returned to his home in Logan county, and on the 4th of November, 1869, he was united in marriage with Miss Margaret Reed, of Pike county, Ohio. Soon after marriage he purchased forty acres of land in Logan county, Illinois, to which he removed with his bride and they there commenced their domestic life. In addition to the forty which he purchased, he rented land from his

father and continued in farming and stock raising on that place until 1874. He then sold his farm, and moving to McLean county, purchased the farm of one hundred and sixty acres where he now resides. The place was a partially improved one, but since taking up his residence there he has built a neat residence, put up a barn, tiled the land, making it one of the best farms in Cheney's Grove township. In the twenty-five acres in which he has lived in McLean county, he has met with a good degree of prosperity, and in addition to the home farm, owns a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Dix township, Ford county, Illinois, another farm of eighty acres in the same neighborhood in which he resides, and has inherited ninety-three acres of the old homestead in Logan county. While he commenced life with but limited means, he has made of it a success, and he is now numbered among the most successful and enterprising farmers of his adopted county.

To Mr. and Mrs. Matthews three children were born. Lucian L. grew to manhood, married, and is now engaged in farming in Ford county, Illinois. Bessie B., a young lady, and John W., a young man, are yet at home.

The first presidential ballot cast by Mr. Matthews was in 1868, when he voted for Horatio Seymour, of New York, the Democratic candidate. Since that time he has been a consistent supporter and advocate of Democratic principles. There has been but one office within the gift of the people that he would hold, that of school director, and in this office he served twelve years, rendering efficient aid to the public schools. For much of the time he was president of the board. It is as a farmer that he has made a record, and everything pertaining to

the interests of farmers will meet with his co-operation. He is now a stock-holder, and for some years was a director in the Fair Association. Fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, holding membership with the lodge in Saybrook. A life-long resident of the state, he has an interest in its material welfare, and ever stands ready to do his part, especially where it concerns the county of his adoption, of which he has now been a resident a quarter of a century.

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**H**ENRY L. JACKSON, a well-known and highly respected citizen of Cheneys Grove township, is now living retired upon his fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 25, three miles east of Saybrook. He has been a resident of McLean county since April, 1863, and was for many years actively identified with its agricultural interests.

Mr. Jackson was born in Laurel county, Kentucky, November 24, 1828, and is a son of H. T. Jackson, who was born in the same county, in 1806. The grandfather, John Jackson, was one of the first settlers of Kentucky, having located there in the time of Daniel Boone. He served in the Revolutionary war for three years. In Madison county, that state, he wedded Miss Mary Forrest Hancock, who helped to run bullets in the block house where they were besieged by the Indians in the early settlement of Kentucky. She was a native of Virginia and a niece of John Hancock, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. Mr. Jackson owned a large tract of land in Madison county, which he sold on his removal to Laurel county, and in the midst of the forest took up a tract of

government land and opened up a large farm. His son Jarvis was the first white male child born in Madison county.

H. T. Jackson, father of our subject, was reared in Laurel county and there married Miss Adaline Pearl, who was also born there a daughter of John Pearl, a native of Virginia and one of the first settlers of Laurel county, Kentucky. After his marriage H. T. Jackson located near his father, where he operated a good farm of about one hundred and fifty acres, but owned some nine hundred acres of land. During the civil war he joined the Home Guards and was taken prisoner by the Confederate troops, who carried him farther south and held him there for ten months. He was one of the well-to-do and substantial farmers of his locality and one of its most prominent citizens, and served as justice of the peace for some years. He died at his home in Kentucky in 1862, and his wife passed away in 1877. Our subject is the oldest of their ten children who reached years of maturity: John A. is a resident of Madison county, Kentucky; George lives near Fort Worth, Texas; H. K. is a resident of Livingston county, Missouri; Stephen H. makes his home in Laurel county, Kentucky; William Harvey lives in Livingston county, Missouri; N. P. and A. B., twins, make their home in Shirley, Illinois; Sally C. and Mrs. Mary F. Ryan are also residents of Shirley.

In the county of his nativity Henry L. Jackson grew to manhood, aiding his father in the cultivation and improvement of the home farm. His wedding was rather a romantic affair and was quite a surprise to the friends of both parties. He and Miss Margaret R. Thomas crossed the state line into Tennessee, where they were quietly married



January 10, 1852. Her parents, Lloyd and Mary R. (Brown) Thomas, were born, reared and married in Maryland and Virginia, respectively, and both belonged to old and honored families of that state. Her mother died in Frederick county, Maryland, after which her father gave up farming and accepted a government position in Baltimore, where he made his home for some years, but his death occurred in Virginia. After the death of her mother, Mrs. Jackson was taken to Virginia where she made her home with her mother's people, being reared and educated there. Later she went with her uncle, G. W. Brown, and family to Laurel county, Kentucky. Prior to her marriage, her maternal grandmother was a Miss Rutherford, whose father, Robert Rutherford, was a personal friend of General Washington, and for the services rendered his country during the Revolutionary war, he received a large grant of land in Laurel county, Kentucky, on a portion of which his grandson, G.W. Brown, located.

Our subject and his wife began their domestic life on the old Jackson homestead in Laurel county, which he conducted for a few years. Later he worked at the blacksmith trade in Madison county, for two years, having learned the same before his marriage, and then returned to the home farm. In 1863 he came to McLean county, Illinois, and for one year lived in Shirley. During the following three years he rented a farm three miles and a half north of the village, and for five years occupied the James Quinn farm, two miles west of Shirley. He then located on a farm in Funks Grove township belonging to D. M. Funk, and in partnership with that gentleman he engaged in the cattle business for twenty years. Their business relations were always most

pleasant, and although there was never any written contracts between them, all settlements were made most satisfactory to both parties. Mr. Jackson speaks in highest terms of Mr. Funk as a straightforward and honorable business man and esteems him as one of his best friends. In the spring of 1892, our subject removed to Saybrook and purchased his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Cheneys Grove township, which he at once commenced to tile and improve. He built a neat and substantial residence upon the place, into which he moved in 1895. He now has a valuable and well-improved farm and is living retired from active business cares, enjoying the fruits of former toil.

Mr. and Mrs. Jackson have four children living, namely: Mary T., now the wife of Edward Cutting, of Chattanooga, Tennessee; Emily K., wife of W. L. Graham, who lives near Shirley, Illinois; Adaline D., wife of Lafayette Quinn, of Manhattan, Kansas; and George L., of Choteau county, Montana. Five children, Humphrey T., Frances, Virginia, James H. L., all died in childhood, and two died in infancy.

Originally Mr. Jackson was a Whig in politics, voting for General Zachary Taylor and later for Fillmore. In 1860 he supported Bell and Everett; in 1865, General George B. McCellan, and has since been identified with the Democratic party. He joined the Masonic fraternity in Kentucky, and on first coming to this state united with Wade Barney Lodge, F. & A. M., of Bloomington, but on the organization of the lodge at Shirley transferred his membership there. He has been master of the lodge at that place for four years, and is also a member of the Bloomington Chapter, No. 25, R.



A. M., and De Molay Commandery, No. 24, K. T., of Bloomington, and Bloomington Council, No. 43, R. & S. M. His wife is a faithful member of the Christian church of Saybrook.

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**J**OHN MARSH is a well-known and honored citizen of Arrowsmith township, residing on section 17, who has met with well-deserved success in life, and is to-day one of the most prosperous and substantial men of the county, although he came here forty-seven years ago with but little capital. Success in any line of undertaking is an indication of earnest endeavor and persevering effort—characteristics that he possesses in an eminent degree.

Mr. Marsh was born in the town of Romulus, Seneca county, New York, March 14, 1828. His father, Darius Marsh, was born in New Jersey, August 2, 1800, and is the eldest in a family of four sons, whose father was Thomas Marsh, also a native of New Jersey, and a farmer by occupation. He removed to Seneca county, New York, in 1811, becoming one of the early settlers there. Darius Marsh grew to manhood in that county, and when sixteen years of age commenced learning the cooper's trade, which he followed until twenty-eight, and then took up the vocation of farming. In early manhood he married Miss Mary A. Brown, who was born in New York in 1803. Her father, John Brown, was also a native of New Jersey, from which state he moved to New York when a young man, becoming a pioneer of Seneca county, where he cleared and developed a farm, making his home there until his death. Mrs. Marsh was the eldest of his thirteen children, all of whom reached years of maturity. Darius Marsh

continued his residence in Seneca county, New York, until forty years of age, when he removed to Madison, Lake county, Ohio, where he followed the pursuit of farming throughout the remainder of his life. He died at the age of eighty-seven years, and his wife passed away at about the age of eighty. The children born to them were: Jane, John, Margaret, Anson, William, Susan, Louisa, George and Samuel, all of whom are still living, with the exception of Susan and Louisa.

The subject of this sketch was about twelve years of age when he accompanied the family on their removal to Ohio. His education, which was begun in the schools of New York, was completed in Madison, Ohio, at the age of seventeen. He gave his father the benefit of his labors until twenty-two, and then operated a farm belonging to a Mr. Wood on shares through the summer, while he worked in a sawmill during the winter months.

On the 4th of March, 1852, Mr. Marsh was united in marriage with Miss Eliza Hobart, who was born in Lake county, Ohio, May 19, 1830, a daughter of Nathan and Cynthia (Page) Hobart, natives of New Hampshire. She was but six years old when she lost her mother, who died leaving a family of five small children, namely: George, Thomas, Eliza, Jackson and Harvey. Throughout life her father followed the occupation of farming. Eight children have been born to our subject and his wife, namely: (1) John F., who resides at home, married Amanda Wampler and had one child, Goldie, deceased. (2) Rena Belle is the wife of George Elsam, of Kearney county, Nebraska. (3) George A. died at the age of thirty years. (4) Mary A. is the wife of John H. Buylta, of Sumner county,

Kansas, and to them were born the following children: Charles, Benjamin, Janie, Tracy, Gussie, Fred, who died at the age of a year and a half; Ida and John. (5) Ella C. is the wife of William Ritter, of Martin township, McLean county, and they have three children, Lydia, Leona and Flossie. (6) Harvey Hobart, a resident of Arrowsmith township, married Della Dunlap and they have three children, Don L., Euna F. and Gladys. (7) Eunice A. died at the age of fourteen years. (8) Ruth A. is the wife of Thomas H. Greenfield, of Arrowsmith township, and they have one child, Guy E.

In October following his marriage, Mr. Marsh and his wife started for Illinois in a covered wagon, and were six weeks in reaching their destination, having been delayed about three weeks on account of the lameness of one of the horses composing the team. They arrived in Old Town township, McLean county, December 15, and made their home there for two years and a half while Mr. Marsh operated rented land. On his arrival here he took up two hundred acres of land in Arrowsmith township, but did not locate thereon until 1855. At that time not a furrow had been turned or an improvement made upon the place. After building a small house upon his place, he commenced to break his land and place it under cultivation. He entered another tract of one hundred and twenty acres, making three hundred and twenty, comprising the west half of section 17, Arrowsmith township. To this he has added until he has six hundred acres, all in one body, and one hundred acres only a half mile away. Besides this valuable property he owns twenty-two acres of timber land in Dawson township,

McLean county; nine hundred and sixty acres of cultivated and improved land in Sumner county, Kansas; and a good farm of three hundred and twenty acres in Kearney county, Nebraska. Throughout his active business life he always gave considerable attention to stock raising, and until the last four or five years kept from five hundred to twelve hundred sheep upon his place. He also raised cattle, horses, mules and hogs. He is now living retired in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil. Notwithstanding he has a crippled arm that he cannot straighten or use to advantage, he has met with most excellent success in his life work, and the prosperity that has come to him is due entirely to his own well-directed efforts, good management and untiring perseverance. He is a capable business man, a thorough and systematic farmer, and a citizen of whom any community might be justly proud. He is now the only resident of Arrowsmith township who is still living upon land which he entered from the government. In his political views he is a silver Democrat, and he takes an active and commendable interest in public affairs, as every true American citizen should. For eighteen years he served as highway commissioner, was school trustee for a number of years, and has filled other minor offices in a most satisfactory manner.

**H**ON. SIMEON H. WEST, who resides on section 4, West township, is one of the best known citizens of McLean county, which has been his home for almost half a century. He was born January 30, 1827, in Bourbon county, Kentucky, and is the son of Henry and Mary (Liter) West, the former a native of Mason county and the

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latter of Bourbon county, in the same state. The family are of Welsh extraction, and were early settlers of Virginia, where Simeon West, the grandfather of our subject, was born, and where he married Mrs. Elizabeth Hopkins Bedell, widow of Major Bedell, an officer in the Revolutionary army. They emigrated to Kentucky, where their family of ten children were born and reared. Of these Maria died in early life. Lysander moved to Indiana, where his death occurred. Simeon lived and died in Tennessee. Thomas H. was among the early settlers of St. Louis, Missouri, where he engaged in the lumber business and accumulated a handsome fortune, and where his death occurred. Henry is the father of our subject. John, after spending the greater part of his life in Kentucky, moved to Missouri, and there died. Eliza married a Mr. Fielder, and died in Missouri. Cynthia married Asa Eades, and lived and died in Paris, Kentucky. Elizabeth married Thomas Eades, a brother of Asa, and died in Kansas City, Missouri. Carolina married Thomas Stewart, and died in Indiana.

Henry West was born February 15, 1804, and at the age of fourteen years was thrown on his own resources. At seventeen he commenced to learn the blacksmith trade, and when twenty married Mary Liter, after which he engaged in farming in his native state. In 1851 he came with his family to McLean county and located one mile southeast of the old Indian fort at Old Town, where he purchased land and engaged in farming, in which line he was very successful. He became a very prominent man in his township and county, and was a man of great influence. On the organization of the county under the township organization law he became its first super-

visor, and the township was named West in his honor. He served as supervisor of the township for a number of years, taking a very active part in all its proceedings, and during the progress of the rebellion he was especially active in sustaining the families of enlisted men. His greatest work in the township, and to which great credit is now rendered him, was in preventing the sale of the school land of the township at a time when it would have brought but a small sum. Through his persistent efforts the land was retained, and has since been leased. It now brings the township nearly three thousand dollars per year, which goes far toward the payment of the school expenses, and which is quite a saving to the taxpayers. It was also through his efforts that the movement was defeated looking to the separation of the eastern tier of townships from McLean county and attaching them to Ford county. After residing upon his farm until 1869, he moved to Bloomington, where he lived until 1885, when, on a visit to his farm, he died September 10, 1885. To Henry and Mary West eight children were born: Mary A. married Montgomery Crumbaugh, and died in 1861. Simon H., our subject, was second in order of birth. Catherine, is the wife of Moses Cawby, of West township. Louisa is the widow of Dr. Jackman, of Harrodsburg, Kentucky. Lucinda died in Kentucky in early childhood. Martha is the wife of George Hedrick, of Le Roy, Illinois. John W. died in 1861, at the age of twenty-five years. William M. died in infancy.

In the common schools of his native county the subject of this sketch attended during the winters until he was sixteen, when he engaged in farming until he emigrated to McLean county, Illinois, and

located in what is now West township, in the spring of 1851. One year later he went to California, going down the river to New Orleans, then to Vera Cruz by sailing vessel, then on horseback via the City of Mexico to Acapulco, and from there by steamer, two thousand miles, to San Francisco, where he arrived in April of the same year. He remained in California and engaged in mining until 1854, when he returned home by the Nicaragua route, being swamped in Virgin Bay, where he had a narrow escape from drowning, forty of the ninety passengers being lost.

Returning to his farm, Mr. West engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1859, when he again went to California. Previous to this, however, he spent some time in traveling, and was in Kansas when "Ossawatimie" Brown, Jim Lane, and the free state men were hunting the Missouri sheriff, "border ruffians," and Atchison, Stringfellow, and others, who were trying to overthrow the elections in the territory. He had been an emancipationist in Kentucky, but a Douglas Democrat in Illinois. He fell in with parties of both sides very frequently, but had no difficulty in convincing them that he was not there to interfere in the Kansas war. His second trip to California was by the overland route, going by the mail stage from Tipton, Missouri, to San Francisco, California, a distance of three thousand miles, eleven hundred miles of which were among hostile Indians, and traveling night and day. He followed mining in California with fair success until 1861, when he again returned to his farm, where he has since continued to reside.

The marriage of Mr. West and Miss Martha Oneal was celebrated June 21, 1863. She is a native of Ohio, and daugh-

ter of Eleazur and Margaret Oneal. By this union there were nine children, as follows: Rosa L., wife of George E. Dooley, of McLean county; Henry C., who married Laura Horine, of McLean county; Lawrence J.; Mary E., wife of Fred Horine; Carrie E., wife of Turner Taylor, of Bellflower township; and Marcus D., who married Nora Gibson; Parker W., who died in infancy; Charles, an uncommonly promising boy, born July 29, 1884, died March 15, 1898; and Luella.

In politics Mr. West was reared a Whig and an emancipationist, and in his early manhood, while yet residing in Kentucky, voted for emancipation in that state, when it amounted to social ostracism, and when there were only seventy persons in his county that dared brave public opinion to that extent. Since 1858, he has usually supported Democratic principles, but has always been independent, being as broad and liberal in his politics as in other matters. He has always taken an active part in public matters, especially of an educational nature, and for the greater part of his residence in West township he has been officially connected with the school board, either as director or trustee. He has used his influence to perpetuate the measure instituted by his father in the preservation of the school lands, and in his official capacity of school trustee he drew up the first contract for leasing the school lands.

In 1873 Mr. West was elected a member of the county board of supervisors without opposition. He was re-elected and served several terms, and made one of the most efficient members of the board. Always alive to the interests of the people, he gave much time and study to the affairs of the county and was always able to vote in-



telligently on every question that came up for consideration. In 1882 he was elected a member of the general assembly of the state from McLean county, and while a member of that body introduced a number of important measures, among them the hard road law, a law for the regulation of traction engines on public highways. He was well known throughout the state as one who refused all passes or other obligations from the railroad companies, and his action met with much unfavorable comment among interested parties. His term of office was signalized by his efforts for measures for conducting state business on as nearly economical lines as possible, contending that the legislature should perform a day's service for a day's remuneration. In 1884 he was again elected a member of the legislature; after serving that term he retired to private life, though not abating one particle of his interest in current events. He still advocates his views in public addresses and through the press, and being a forcible and eloquent speaker, his services are often in demand on public occasions, and his views are listened to with respect. His labors have always been in the interest of humanity, for the enlightenment and advancement of his fellow men. His contributions to the public press are always of interest, even when his views may be contrary to those of the general reader.

For some time Mr. West has been interested in a plan which he conceives will result in the solution of the problem that has perplexed statesmen for the past century—that pertaining to the race question. His plan seems feasible and practicable, and consists of acquiring possession of land in the Amazon Valley, and colonizing our negro population thereon, giving them their own

government and officers, under the protection and supervision of the United States. Mr. West has also given some thought to the Filipino question, and has contributed a number of articles to the press setting forth his humane ideas in regard to the rights of the struggling Filipinos.

By some who know him least Mr. West is termed eccentric. He is one of those firm, rugged characters who is not trammelled or bound by old forms or dogmas, one who does not hesitate to blaze out his own path, or to advocate a cause which his own judgment and conscience shows to be in the right, even though his position be unpopular. He has the courage of his convictions and insists strongly upon according to all races and individuals the same privilege he claims for himself in liberty of thought and action. In religious belief he is a firm believer in spiritualistic science, and has demonstrated to his own satisfaction its truth, and knows that death is not an inseparable barrier between this world and the next.

Mr. West is a splendid specimen of physical and intellectual manhood. Though at an age when the average man is willing to rest from his labors, he still takes personal supervision of his extensive business interests. His property interests outside of his home farm consist of a ranch and town site of Deer Park, on Buffalo Bayou, fifteen miles below Houston, Texas, on the proposed canal from Houston to Galveston; also ranch property in Tulare county, California, and a half interest in a gold mining claim near Sylvanite, northwestern Montana. These interests requiring his personal attention, take him from his home almost one-half his time. In his travels he has formed the acquaintance of many of the leading

men of the nation, and with many of them he has had the pleasure of exchanging views on the leading issues and questions of the day.

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**W**ILLIAM A. DUNN, of Bloomington, bears the enviable record of being the oldest engineer, in point of service, on the Chicago & Alton Railroad. He is an Irishman by birth, having been born in Garristown, five miles west of Cork, on the 7th of February, 1830. He is a son of John and Mary (Batman) Dunn, who died in the city of Cork, Ireland. The former was a merchant of Cork, and was at one time a member of the city militia. William attended school in the land of his birth until his fourteenth year, then, on the 11th of July, 1844, sailed for Quebec in charge of the captain of a brigantine, reaching that port after a voyage of seven weeks and three days. He went at once to his brother-in-law at Isle Cruix Noi, which is located on the Richeleau river, into which Lake Champlain empties, and worked for him for some time at cabinet-making. He then went to Quebec as a teamster, but disliked the business, gave it up, and in 1849 joined Capt. Walter Jones' troop of the Queen's Light Dragoons, and did frontier service for a year, until Lord Elgin recommended their discharge for disloyalty, at the burning of the Parliament House, as they refused to fire on the loyal citizens. Their horses and accoutrements were their own, and their regiment was the pride of the country.

Mr. Dunn then came to the United States and was foreman of a gang of men who were excavating for the Northern Ogdensburg Railroad, now a part of the Vermont Central Railroad. He was at the

foremost point with thirty men for over a year, and during that time made Lawrenceville Postoffice or Deer River his home. In 1851 he was given a position as fireman on the Champlain & St. Lawrence Railroad, now known as the Grand Trunk, and the following year was sent to the shops at St. Lambert to complete his knowledge of tools. St. Lambert is at the east end of Victoria bridge, and Mr. Dunn was located there at the time of the funeral of the Duke of Wellington. He next went to St. John, Quebec, and from there went to La Porte, Indiana, and entered the employ of the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railroad, which was then known as the Lake Shore & Northern Indiana. E. H. Williams, of the Baldwin Engine Works, was at that time superintendent of the road. Our subject ran engines from La Porte to White Pigeon, Illinois, and from La Porte to Chicago, burning wood instead of coal.

In 1858 he removed to Bloomington and accepted a position as engineer on the Chicago & Alton Railroad, when A. H. Moore was superintendent of the road. His first runs were made to Joliet on night trains, but owing to his ability and sterling worth he was soon transferred to the passenger service, running through trains. Few men of his age receive so great a trust as is placed in our subject. He is in his seventieth year, and still has charge of an engine, running to Springfield in the morning and back to Bloomington at night. In 1860 the family moved to Alton, where they lived in one house for twenty years.

On the 14th of August, 1854, Mr. Dunn was united in marriage to Miss Agnes Riley, a native of Montreal. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Dunn, as follows: Mary Ward, born in La Porte, Indiana, is

the wife of Samuel Towsley, yardmaster of the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad, and resides in Nevada, Missouri. There are two bright sons, Joseph B. and Albert. William A., Jr., the second child of our subject and his wife, is a conductor on the Missouri, Kansas & Texas. The third child, Susan, is the wife of F. W. Ward, of Rogers Park, Illinois. Of their four children two are living, William L. and Grace. Laura F., who is fourth in order of birth, was born in Alton, Illinois, and is the wife of Christian Loeffler, of Rockford, Illinois. They have two children, Agnes I. and Clarence. Charles F., the fifth child of our subject, is a locomotive engineer on the Chicago & Eastern Illinois Railroad, his home being at Mokena, Illinois. He married Miss Gussie Irene Van Allen, by whom he has three daughters, Mabel, Mollie and Susan E. Albert E., the youngest child of our subject, who was named for the Prince of Wales, was born in Bloomington. He is a conductor on the Chicago & Alton Railroad, and makes his home with his parents. Mr. and Mrs. Dunn are prominent members of the Episcopal church, where they are much loved and honored. Their home, at the corner of Grove and Allin streets, is one of the charming homes of Bloomington, reflecting good taste and domestic luxury, and here in his attractive home our subject enjoys evenings of rest and comfort after the worries and cares of each succeeding day.

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CHRISTIAN JACOBS. It has been said that biography yields to no other subject in point of interest and profit and it is especially interesting to note the progress that has been made along various lines of business by those of foreign birth who have

sought homes in America—the readiness with which they adapt themselves to the different methods and customs of America, recognize advantages offered and utilize opportunities which the new world affords. Prominent in this class is the gentleman whose name stands at the head of this review, and who was born in Mecklenberg, Germany, on the 1st of May, 1833. His parents were Frederick and Dora Jacobs, who left their German home for America in 1854, going direct to Bloomington, Illinois, where they made their home for two years, moving later to Yates township, McLean county, where Mr. Jacobs was laid to rest in 1857, when but fifty-five years of age. His wife lived to be seventy-six years, dying in 1876. The family of this worthy couple consisted of four children, Christian being the only surviving member. His education and early training were received in his native land, and at the age of twenty-one years he came to America with his parents, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits. In 1857 he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Yates township, in company with his brother, Frederick, where he resided for over forty years. His farming was of a general character, and by his frugality, far-sightedness and good judgment he has prospered, every enterprise being successful in a pre-eminently high degree. He has had in his possession, at one time, nine hundred acres of land, some of which he has sold and more he has given to his children. At the present time he is the proprietor of five hundred acres of valuable land. In 1896 he purchased property in Chenoa, where he now lives a retired life, reaping the fruits of an honorable and successful business career.

On the 9th of December, 1857, Mr. Jacobs was joined in marriage to Miss So-



phia Valls, a native of Mecklenberg, Germany, and a daughter of Joseph Valls. Of their six children, four are living namely: Lizzie; Minnie; Mary; and William. Mr. Jacobs votes the Republican ticket, believing firmly in the principles of that party. He has served as school director for a number of terms, filling the office in a highly commendable manner. Mr. Jacobs and his wife are prominent members and earnest workers in the Lutheran church, where they are held in the highest esteem.

**H**ENRY BUTLER, an energetic and successful agriculturist, owns and operates a well-improved and valuable farm of one hundred and eighty acres on section 10, Cheney's Grove township, within four miles of Saybrook. He is a native of New York, born in Greene county, under the shadows of the Catskill mountains, October 16, 1833. There he grew to manhood, with limited school advantages, and his education has been mostly acquired by reading and observation in later years.

Mr. Butler remained at home until nearly twenty-one years of age, when he purchased his time of his father and came to Illinois in October, 1850, with some friends. He first located at Tonica, La Salle county, where he worked for nearly four years for W. J. Wilson, who proved a good friend to him. He was engaged in teaming and hauling coal most of the time. He was married in that county in February, 1861, to Miss Augusta Thompson, also a native of Greene county, New York, who came to this state when a child of fourteen years. After his marriage, Mr. Butler went to Livingston county, Illinois, where he rented a farm for two years, and then returned to

La Salle county, where he purchased forty acres of land, and later forty acres more, on which he engaged in farming for ten years. During that time he made many improvements upon the place, erecting buildings and setting out fruit and shade trees, and he finally sold the place in 1872 at a good profit. Coming to McLean county, he purchased two hundred and forty acres of land in Cheney's Grove township, all of which was under cultivation and fenced, but the buildings standing thereon were in rather a dilapidated condition. These were all improved or replaced by new ones, and he continued the operation of that farm until 1892, when he sold it at a good price and purchased the farm of one hundred and eighty acres on which he now resides. There are two sets of buildings upon this place, and it is one of the best improved farms of the locality. Here he successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising, and in all his undertakings he has steadily prospered, becoming one of the substantial citizens of his community.

Mr. and Mrs. Butler are the parents of eight children, three sons and five daughters, namely: Comelia, wife of John Spindler, of Winfield, Kansas; Gussie H., wife of Marion Crawford, of McLean county; Nettie, wife of Harry Ball, of Denver, Colorado; Ida May, wife of Edward Crawford, of Cheney's Grove township; Bessie L., at home; Alvero E., who is married and holds a business position in Gibson City, Illinois; Charles, who is married and resides on the home farm, and Hugh J., who also assists in the operation of the home farm. All have been well educated, and two of the daughters have been successful teachers. Mrs. Butler and some of the children are members of the United



Brethren church, and the family is one of prominence socially in the community where they reside. Fraternally Mr. Butler belongs to the Knights of Pythias, and formerly held membership in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Politically he is a staunch Democrat, and cast his first presidential vote for James Buchanan in 1856. He began life a poor man, but by indomitable perseverance and the able assistance of his devoted wife he has acquired a comfortable competence, so that they can now spend their declining years in a nice home, surrounded by all that makes life pleasant and easy, and in the enjoyment of the respect and confidence which they have won from their neighbors by their beneficent and upright lives.

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**AUGUSTUS GROVE.** Prominent among the early settlers of McLean county who have witnessed the marvelous development of this section of the state during the past sixty-five years, and who have by honest toil and industry succeeded in securing a competence, and are now enabled to spend the sunset of life in quiet and retirement, is the gentleman whose name heads this sketch, and who is a resident of the pleasant village of Saybrook.

Mr. Grove was born in Williamsport, Indiana, June 14, 1833, and is a son of David Grove, a native of Virginia, who, when a young man, went to Ohio, and there married Miss Barbara Harris, a native of Gallia county, that state. The father was an all-round business man who run a still, boated down the rivers, and dealt in stock and grain. He moved with his family to this state in 1834 and took up his residence in Homer, Champaign county, where he en-

gaged in the stock and grain business. He died in Bloomington in 1850. His wife survived him many years, passing away in 1885. Augustus is the oldest son in their family of eight children, seven sons and one daughter, all of whom reached years of maturity with one exception. Margaret, the oldest of the family, is the wife of Levi Cavan and resides in California; Perry is a resident of the same state; Jackson lives in Saybrook, Illinois; Albert is a farmer of Arrowsmith township; David lives in Ellsworth, Illinois, and James is in the west.

Augustus Grove was only a year old when the family removed to Illinois, and in 1851 they came to McLean county, locating upon a rented farm in Old Town township, which the sons operated for two or three years. Being the oldest, our subject assisted his mother in caring for the younger children. He and his brother Jackson at length purchased one hundred and sixty acres, and to its improvement and cultivation they devoted their energies for a few years. On disposing of that property, our subject purchased eighty acres in Arrowsmith township, near the village of Arrowsmith, and he soon transformed the wild land into a rich and productive farm, on which he made a number of improvements, including the erection of a house. After operating that place for two years, he sold and purchased one hundred acres, on which he made his home for three years. In 1872 he went to Missouri, but not finding a suitable location there he returned to Illinois and bought eighty acres of well improved land in Arrowsmith township. To its further development and cultivation he devoted his time and attention for several years and enlarged it by the purchase of another eighty-acre tract and later forty acres. He remodeled the house,

erected outbuildings, laid many rods of tiling, set out fruit and shade trees, and successfully engaged in farming and stock raising there for about twenty years, but since 1889 he has rented his land and lived retired in Saybrook, where he has purchased a pleasant residence.

On the 1st of September, 1858, in McLean county, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Grove and Miss Sarah Gray, a native of Monroe county, Indiana, who came to this county with her brother and sister. Three children were born of this union, namely: Dr. Levi, a dentist, who is married and resides in California; Sarah Alice, wife of William Woods, of Calhoun county, Iowa, by whom she has four daughters, Nellie, Leah, Laura and Evelyn; and Laura Belle, wife of Charles Means, of Saybrook, Illinois, by whom she has two children, Earl and Oakley. Since casting his first presidential ballot for John C. Fremont, in 1856, Mr. Grove has been a stanch supporter of the men and measures of the Republican party, but has never sought nor desired office. After a long life of toil he is now resting from his labors, and is spending the evening of life pleasantly at his home in Saybrook, surrounded by the love, respect and esteem of a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

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**A**RTHUR C. HAMILTON. The career of him whose name heads this review illustrates most forcibly the possibilities that are open to a young man who possesses sterling business qualifications. It proves that neither wealth nor social position, nor the assistance of influential friends at the outset of his career are necessary to place him on the road to success. It also proves

that ambition, perseverance, steadfast purpose and indefatigable industry, combined with sound business principle, will be rewarded, and that true success follows individual effort only. Mr. Hamilton has gained recognition and prestige as one of the influential representative business men of Bloomington, and is now treasurer and manager of the Co-operative Stove Company, of which he was one of the founders.

Mr. Hamilton was born in Schenectady, New York, January 27, 1844, and is a son of Farwell H. and Ruth (Vady) Hamilton, who were married in Albany, that state. The Hamiltons are an old Massachusetts family, the ancestors of our subject having located there soon after the Mayflower landed her passengers at Plymouth Rock. To this family belonged Alexander Hamilton, and also Dr. Hamilton, of New York. The father of our subject was born not far from Worcester, Massachusetts, and when a young man removed to Schenectady, New York, where he engaged in the manufacture of screws. He invented and patented a number of things for the manufacture of screws, but ill health forced his retirement from that business and he moved to Steubenville, Ohio, where he had a contract for laying about forty miles of the Pan-Handle Railroad from that place to Cadiz. He lived there during the civil war, in which struggle four of his sons engaged. In 1876 he came to Bloomington and for some time was connected with the Bloomington Stove Company, but during his last days lived retired from active labor. He died here in 18—, his wife in 18—. Both were faithful members of the Second Presbyterian church and were highly respected by all who knew them. In the family were five children, one daughter, and four sons, all

of whom were in the army during the Rebellion. Edward was a member of the One Hundred and Fifty-seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry and died in the service of his country; Erskine M. is now an attorney of Bloomington; Kate W. is a writer of note; Arthur C. is next in order of birth, and Chauncy A. is foreman of the Co-operative Stove Company's shops.

Arthur C. Hamilton was educated in the public schools of Steubenville, Ohio, and during his youth served an apprenticeship in a stove-plate foundry, completing the same about the time of the opening of the civil war. Prompted by a spirit of patriotism, he enlisted in the spring of 1862, for three months in Company F, Eighty-fourth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and participated in a number of skirmishes during Morgan's raid through Ohio. He still has in his possession a revolver he picked up at that time. After four months of service he was mustered out in September, 1862, but soon re-enlisted in the One Hundred and Fifty-seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry, under Colonel George McCook, and with that command also served for four months, re-enlisting on the expiration of that time in Company H, One Hundred and Ninety-fifth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, for one year. He was sergeant of his company, which was a part of General Hancock's corps and was on duty in the Shenandoah Valley until after the close of the war, being discharged in December, 1865.

After returning to his home in Steubenville, Mr. Hamilton was ill for six months, and then resumed work in the foundry. In 1868 he came to Bloomington and for a time worked in the old foundry of Kersey Fell, after which he was employed as foreman by the Bloomington Stove Company

for a short time. Resigning his position, he, with John W. Hayes and William Partidge, a wealthy man of Normal, formed the Co-operative Stove Company, of which Mr. Hayes has since served as president and our subject as treasurer and superintendent. This was incorporated in 1886, with a capital stock of twelve thousand dollars and the plant was first located at Normal, where they manufactured heating and cooking stoves on a small scale. In 1892 they bought what is called the Empire Works on the Illinois Central Railroad, and converted it into a stove manufactory, three hundred by forty feet, and two stories in height. It is one of the largest plants in central Illinois, is built of brick, and besides the main building there are the cupalo room and boiler room. At first it was rather a hard matter to build up the business, but seeing the company prosper, men took stock, and the capital has twice been increased, being now fifty thousand dollars. Mr. Hayes and our subject still hold the offices to which they were first elected and Chauncy A. Hamilton is now serving as foreman. Twenty-five skilled workmen are now employed in the foundry and receive four dollars per day, and the company has a traveling salesman upon the road. They have a good Chicago trade. Although they started with nothing but a thorough knowledge of the business, and a large amount of energy, determination and perseverance, the officers of the company are now ranked among the well-to-do business men of the city.

Mr. Hamilton was united in marriage with Miss Kate R. Boyce, of Bloomington, a daughter of William J. Boyce, who is at the head of the Bloomington Dray Line, and they now have two children—Clifford B. and Kenneth. The family have a beautiful



home at the corner of Empire and Clinton streets, which Mr. Hamilton erected in 1894. He and his wife are active and prominent members of the First Methodist Episcopal church, in which he is now serving as trustee and assistant superintendent of the Sunday school. He promised his oldest brother, just before the latter's death, that he would take an active part in church work, and since the war has hardly missed a Sunday. For thirty years he has been officially connected with the church most of the time. Fraternally, he is a member of W. T. Sherman Post, G. A. R., and the Modern Woodmen of America. Those who know him best are numbered among his warmest friends, and his upright, honorable life commends him to the confidence and esteem of all with whom he comes in contact.

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CHAUNCEY A. HAMILTON, superintendent of the Co-operative Stove Company and one of its incorporators, has demonstrated the true meaning of the word success as the full accomplishment of an honorable purpose. Energy, close application, perseverance and good management—these are the elements which have entered into his business career and crowned his efforts with prosperity.

Mr. Hamilton was born March 26, 1846, in Mohawkville, near Schenectady, New York. His father, Farwell H. Hamilton, was born near Podunk Pond, Worcester county, Massachusetts, and in that state he learned the machinist's trade, which he later followed in Mohawkville, New York. He married Miss Ruth Cady, of the latter place, and lived there for some time. Later he was superintendent of a large screw factory of Taunton, Massachusetts, and pat-

ented the best method of manufacturing screws at that time, before the gimlet points were introduced. He was also connected with a screw factory at Raritan, New Jersey, and from there removed to Steubenville, Jefferson county, Ohio, where he had the contract of laying the track of the Steubenville & Indiana Railroad, now a part of the Pan Handle Railroad, but the company failed to pay him for his work. He next built the reservoir for Steubenville on a large hill, but here also lost money. He took a contract to get out ties for the Pan Handle Railroad from Steubenville to Pittsburg, but as the company failed after he had furnished them with a number of thousand ties, he did not receive any pay for his work for six or eight years. Having lost so much, he finally secured employment as a carpenter in a stove foundry, with which he was connected until 1862. Later he again worked in the foundry until coming to Bloomington in 1870. As a carpenter, he was also connected with the Bloomington Stove Foundry until 1875, when he retired from active labor. He died in 1892, at the age of eighty-six years, his wife in 1886. Both were earnest and consistent members of the Presbyterian church and while a resident of Ohio, the father served as deacon of the congregation to which he belonged. In political sentiment he was a Republican.

During his boyhood and youth Chauncey A. Hamilton pursued his studies in the grammar and high schools of Steubenville, Ohio, and began his business career by tending the furnace in a foundry, being thus employed when he enlisted in the service of his country during the civil war. In March, 1865, he joined Company H, One Hundred and Ninety-fifth Ohio Volunteer Infantry,



and was sent to Charleston, West Virginia, in which vicinity the regiment engaged in fighting bushwhackers. They then marched to Stevenson station, where Lee surrendered, and later went to Washington, D. C., and on to Alexandria, Virginia, where they were mustered out December 18, 1865.

Returning to his home in Steubenville on Friday Mr. Hamilton resumed work at his old place the following Monday, but soon afterward began serving a regular three years' apprenticeship to the molder's trade, at which he then worked for a short time before coming to Bloomington in 1869. Here he was connected with the Bloomington Stove Company until he and his brother, Arthur C. Hamilton, and John J. Hayes, all molders, organized a regular stock company with twelve thousand dollars capital, and Mr. Hayes as president, A. C. Hamilton, treasurer, and himself superintendent. They bought a small shop at Normal, got up new models for stoves, and remained in business there for about five years, during which time they gave employment to but few men, doing most of the work themselves and selling their own goods. About the time of their removal to Bloomington the capital was increased to twenty-five thousand dollars, but no new members were admitted to the company. The capital is now fifty thousand dollars, and the company is strongly supported by a number of prominent business men of Bloomington. Their present plant of three hundred by forty feet and two stories in height, besides the engine house, cupalo, cleaners and molders' rooms, is built of brick, and is situated on the Illinois Central Railroad, with which it is connected with a switch. The company has built up a large and profitable business, which is steadily increasing, and they now

furnish employment to about twenty-five men, while they turn out about nine stoves (cooking and heating) per day. They have been a very conservative and successful firm and stand high financially. From the beginning our subject has been one of the directors and manager of the company, and was the first one to do anything in the way of work for it, making the first stove in his barn at home.

On the 31st of March, 1874, Mr. Hamilton married Miss Lina Reed, of Bloomington, a daughter of Lucius Reed, and they now have two children: Ina and Everett. In 1894 he erected a fine home for his family at No. 703 Empire street. Politically he is identified with the Republican party and socially affiliates with W. T. Sherman Post, G. A. R. He and his wife are both members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and for many years he was an active worker in the Sunday school. As a citizen he ever stands ready to discharge every duty devolving upon him, and as a business man he ranks among the best and most reliable in his adopted city.

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JOSEPH M. EASTERBROOK, a retired farmer and highly-esteemed citizen of Saybrook, has made his home in this county since the 6th of November, 1865, and was for many years one of the most active and enterprising agriculturists of Bellflower township, where he still owns a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres. He was born in Ross county, Ohio, June 3, 1830, and is a son of G. W. Easterbrook, who was born on the Atlantic ocean while his parents were coming to America. The grandfather, John Easterbrook, was a native of England, and in early manhood was kidnapped and pressed

into the British navy. Being a good musician, he was given charge of the marine band. He participated in some of the engagements of the war of 1812, and later took an active part in the Canadian rebellion. He was captured by General Harrison, and after being given his freedom took charge of the military band in the American army. He had married in Ireland, and there he left his wife, who later joined him in the United States, sailing down the St. Lawrence river and Atlantic ocean to New York. While on this trip G. W. Easterbrook, the father of our subject, was born. The grandfather finally located in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he engaged in teaching school, and also music. He died at the advanced age of ninety-six years.

G. W. Easterbrook grew to manhood in Cincinnati, and was provided with good educational advantages. For some years he, too, followed the teacher's profession, and while thus employed in Ross county, Ohio, he married Miss Elizabeth Purcel, a native of that state, and a daughter of Reuben Purcel. For a time he continued his educational work in Ross county, and then removed to Fayette county, the same state, where he settled on a farm, which his sons operated while he engaged in teaching. Some years later he came to Illinois, and spent his last years with our subject, where he died in 1875, at about the age of seventy years. His wife passed away in 1893, and both were laid to rest in Bellflower cemetery.

On the home farm in Fayette county, Ohio, Joseph M. Easterbrook passed his boyhood and youth in much the usual manner of farmer lads of his day, and he remained with his father until after he attained his majority. In October, 1854, he

was married in Ross county, to Miss Hannah Middleton, who was born, reared and educated there, a daughter of Jacob and Rebecca (Bathhurst) Middleton. Her father was a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and in that state he was married, but finally became a resident of Ross county, Ohio, where he made his home for many years. Our subject and his wife began housekeeping on the Easterbook homestead, Fayette county, which he operated until 1865, when he sold the place and came to McLean county, Illinois. Here he purchased a partially improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Bellflower township, on which he made his home for many years. He built thereon a neat and commodious residence, a good barn and other outbuildings, set out an orchard and shade trees, and in other ways added to its value and attractive appearance. He was one of the men who were largely instrumental in getting a large ditch cut through this section of the county, by which several thousand acres of land were drained and rendered very productive. Our subject contributed his share to the cost of the ditch, which amounted to over three thousand dollars.

Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Easterbrook before leaving Ohio, and since then the family circle has been increased by the birth of one more. They are as follows: Ada is the wife of John Brokaw, a farmer of Bellflower township, and they have one daughter, Adelaide; Harry E., a resident of Saybrook, is married and has two children, Eleanor Frances and John Lester; C. P., a business man of Saybrook, is married and has four children, Harry D., Leo J., Earl C. and Mabel; George W., who is in partnership with his

brother C. P. in the furniture and undertaking business in Saybrook, is married and has one son, Floyd W.; and Jacob W., who lives on the home farm, is married and has one son, Russell.

Originally Mr. Easterbrook was an old-line Whig in politics, but has been identified with the Republican party since its organization, voting for Fremont, in 1856, and for every presidential candidate of the party since then. He and his wife are earnest and consistent members of the Saybrook Methodist Episcopal church and are held in high regard by all who have the pleasure of their acquaintance on account of their sterling worth and many excellencies of character.

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**T**HOMAS WILSON (deceased) was a well known citizen of Danvers township, where he followed farming and stock raising for many years with good success. He was born in Sumner county, Tennessee, April 10, 1821, and was the son of Thomas and Polly (McCrunnells) Wilson, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of Tennessee. In 1822 the family moved to Posey county, Indiana, of which county they were pioneers. There Thomas Wilson, Sr., spent the remainder of his life engaged in farming.

The subject of this sketch spent his boyhood and youth in Posey county, and in the primitive schools of that early day received his education. While still residing in Posey county, he was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth McCrunnells, and to them were born five children: Nancy Elizabeth, now the wife of Maze Potter. They reside in Kansas. Mary Jane married James Gorman, and they removed to Kansas, where he now resides. She is deceased. Benja-

min F. makes his home in Lincoln, Illinois. Stephen Douglas is living in Danvers, Illinois. Alfred Pierce resides in Melvin, Illinois.

In 1850, Mr. Wilson came with his family to McLean county and settled in Danvers township, where he purchased eighty acres of land and proceeded to open up a farm. He became quite successful in his farming operations, and from time to time added to the area of his farm until it contained three hundred and forty acres, all of which he had under improvement. Besides, he owned one hundred acres in the home place, all in the corporation of Danvers, and about thirty acres of timber land. He continued to engage actively in farming until 1891, when he moved with his family to Bloomington and lived retired. One year, however, sufficed him in that city and he returned to the farm.

In 1863, Mrs. Elizabeth Wilson departed this life, and for his second wife Mr. Wilson married Miss Martha J. Mickens, who was born in Warren county, Illinois, January 3, 1844, and the daughter of A. C. and Eliza (Rowland) Mickens. Her father was a native of Pennsylvania, and came to Warren county at a very early day, where he engaged in the meat trade. In 1848 he came to McLean county and located in the village of Danvers, where he continued in the same line of business, and also during the season ran a threshing machine. For a time he operated a saw mill in addition to his other lines of employment. To A. C. and Eliza Mickens seven children were born: John, Abner, Cornelia, Asa, Mary, Eliza and Martha. The mother of these children died when the latter was an infant, and for his second wife Mr. Mickens married Miss Lavina Holmes, by



whom he had seven children: Sarah, Minerva, George, James, Henry, Frances and Joseph. This second wife died, and for his third wife he married Mrs. Kasor, by whom he had one child: Orin. Mr. Mickens died at the age of sixty years.

To Mr. and Mrs. Wilson four children were born: Fannie Adella, Ida Cordelia, Lewis Eli and Minnie Lillian. Of these, Fannie A. and Ida C. are deceased. The former died July 1, 1899. She was a young lady of fine musical ability and studied harmony and theory with Dr. Palmer, of New York, and instrumental music with Prof. Mueller, of Bloomington. For a number of years she was organist in the Congregational church of Danvers. Her death was a sad loss to the community in which she lived. Miss Minnie has developed much artistic talent and studied china painting with Miss Miller, of Peoria, Illinois, and with Miss White, of Cincinnati, Ohio; and pastel painting under the instruction of Prof. O. L. Wilson, of the Illinois Wesleyan University.

Mr. Wilson was quite fond of traveling, and for some years prior to his death indulged his taste in that direction. He spent considerable time in the south, especially in Florida. In politics he was a staunch Democrat, having an abiding faith in the principles of that party as advocated by Jefferson and Jackson. Mrs. Wilson is a member of the Presbyterian church, and while not a member Mr. Wilson gave his support to that church. His death occurred September 1, 1897, and his remains were laid to rest in the cemetery at Danvers. For almost fifty years he was a resident of McLean county, and his life's history was closely interwoven with that of his adopted county, of which he was always proud. In

the home circle and in the community which was so long his home his presence is sadly missed.

FRED S. PHOENIX, a well-known and successful nurseryman of Bloomington, was born in that city, March 5, 1855, a son of Franklin Kelsey and Mary E. (Topping) Phoenix. The father was born in Perry, New York, March 3, 1825, and there spent his boyhood until 1837, when he accompanied his father, Samuel F. Phoenix, on his removal to Delavan, Walworth county, Wisconsin, being numbered among the pioneer settlers of that locality. The grandfather, with a brother, laid out the village of Delavan, and died there when the father of our subject was a young man of fifteen years. Samuel Faulkner Phoenix, the father of F. K. Phoenix, was born in Dansville, New York, in November, 1798. He was a tanner and general merchant, and was appointed a colonel of infantry by DeWitt Clinton. As a missionary for the American Tract Society he spent two winters in the south, which resulted in his becoming an ardent abolitionist. He was a delegate to the first convention of the New York State Anti-Slavery Society, at Utica, New York, October 21, 1835. He was licensed to preach by the Baptist church of Perry, New York. A staunch temperance advocate, it is related of him that on signing the pledge he returned to his home, brought from the cellar the casks and barrels of liquors and emptied the contents in the street.

Franklin K. Phoenix grew to manhood in Delavan, and in 1842 embarked in the nursery business at that place, being one of the pioneers in that line in the west. After carrying on operations there for a few years



he transferred his business to Bloomington in 1852, buying out Robert Fell's nursery, on East Jefferson street, about a half block east of the Illinois Central Railroad. The spring of 1852 the Fell nursery was removed to the Major land and a fine brick residence was erected, which became the family home-stand. His landed possessions here were quite extensive, owning the property where the Wesleyan College now stands, and north to the present site of the Deaconess Hospital. Here he had about fifty acres covered with trees which he had set out, having first cleared the land himself. These trees were of the varieties most in demand in a new country. In 1855-6 the nursery covered by ten acres and in 1858 eighty acres, and one hundred and forty feet were devoted to green houses. He was not the first nurseryman in Bloomington, but was the first one here to do business on an extensive scale. His catalogues in those early days showed a marked bent in calling attention of the farmers to beautify their homes and thus hold their children with them. He was quite prominent in horticultural circles, and in 1850, at a meeting of the State Horticultural Society in Princeton, he was elected its secretary. For many years he was one of its most active and influential members, and wrote many able papers for it. From 1858 he constantly increased his plant, until about ten years later he had six hundred acres devoted to the nursery business, all adjoining and contiguous to the city, and it was rated as the second largest nursery in the United States. He had in his employ an enormous force of men, besides the large number of salesmen all over the west. Mr. Phoenix was a man of good executive ability, and had unlimited confidence in his business,

which at its zenith reached the enormous sum of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars a year. During the hard times of 1877 he failed, his trade having fallen off during the past few years, and in 1879 he returned to Delavan, Wisconsin, where he established a small nursery and is still engaged in business to a limited extent. For many years he has been active in the Prohibition movement, and was one of three or four who carried on and supported the old "Temperance Standard," a paper conducted by a Mr. Nichols. In his catalogues he often enclosed articles and tracts on temperance. He also wrote many articles on that subject and the files of the old Bloomington papers contain many fearless articles against the churches that did not support prohibition. He was one of the early leaders of the party, and stood by his belief regardless of business policy, contributing liberally of his means to its advancement, and being one of the first to call a meeting of the party in Bloomington. He is a man of strong Christian principles, and was an active member of the Baptist church until he saw how many there were in that denomination that did not agree with him on prohibition, when he united with the Independent church, but in 1864 left that for the same reason. In December, 1850, Mr. Phoenix married Miss Mary E. Topping, a daughter of Thomas Topping, a merchant, first of Schoharie county, New York, and later of Delavan, Wisconsin, of which place he was also a pioneer. Mrs. Phoenix was born in 1830, and is still living.

Fred S. Phoenix, of this sketch, is the second in order of birth in a family of six children who are still living, and was educated in the Normal University and the high school at Normal. His education com-

pleted, he at once engaged in business with his father, having during his boyhood become thorough familiar with it. After his father met with reverses, he was retained at the old place, practically serving as manager for three years. In the spring of 1881, he and his brother embarked in the nursery business under the firm style of Phoenix Brothers & Emerson, and at the end of two years he purchased his brother's interest, and three years later that of Mr. Emerson, since which time he has been alone. His nurseries are just southeast of the city limits, where he has quite a large plant and carries all kinds of hardy trees, shrubs and roses, gives employment to a large number of men. Upright and reliable in business, he has won the confidence and esteem of those with whom he has come in contact and is meeting with a well-deserved success in his chosen calling.

On the 17th of March, 1882, Mr. Phoenix was united in marriage with Miss Sally Taylor Lain, of Blue Mound township, McLean county, a daughter of Isaiah Lain, and they now have two children, Ollie E. and Harold A. The family have a pleasant home at No. 606 East Olive street, and attend and support the Unitarian church. Politically Mr. Phoenix is a Republican, but has never been an aspirant for office.

**J**AMES JOHNSTON, a well known farmer of Allin township, was born November 15, 1828, in Greene county, Ohio, of Irish-German parentage. His father, Joseph Johnston, was born in New Jersey, near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1802. In 1826 he traveled on horseback to Ohio, intending to make that state his future home. He was later joined by his father's family,

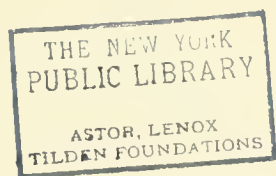
and his parents dying soon after their arrival, he was left with the care of five children. In 1827 he married Miss Martha Opdyke, and in 1834 they moved near Ft. Wayne, Indiana, where the remainder of their lives was spent. He died June 28, 1870, and his wife in February, 1887. They were both members of the Methodist Episcopal church of the old type.

James Johnston was six years of age when he accompanied his parents to Indiana. In the common schools of that state he received his education, and at the early age of nine years he was converted at a prayer meeting, and united with the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he has been a consistent member to the present time. He has always taken an active interest in the work of the church, and when his health would admit served his church in an official capacity, being for some years a class leader and superintendent of the Sunday-school, and for thirty years trustee in M. E. church.

On the 8th of December, 1852, Mr. Johnston was united in marriage with Miss Eleanor J. Marrs, daughter of William and Roxcena E. Marrs, the former born in Bourbon county, Kentucky, in 1800, of Scotch-Irish parentage, and the latter born in Pennsylvania, on the Susquehanna river, of New England parentage, her parents being from Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Her maternal grandfather, Ensign Mitchell, was a soldier in the war of 1812. He married Lucy Hubbard, and they became the parents of eleven children, six sons and five daughters. Several of the sons lived to be octogenarians, one or more living to be more than ninety-five years of age. Joseph Mitchell, a great-uncle of Eleanor, was a traveling itinerant Methodist preacher, and traveled for a time



JAMES JOHNSTON.





with Lorenzo Dow. He later came to Illinois, and was assigned a circuit covering four hundred miles, and for his services he frequently did not receive over sixty dollars cash per year. He died in 1845, and was buried near Peoria.

Eleanor J. (Marrs) Johnston was born near Sidney, Shelby county, Ohio, June 13, 1830, and in 1839 her mother died leaving seven children, two sons and five daughters, all of whom grew to maturity. Eleanor commenced attending school when nearly ten years of age, and so improved her time that she received a certificate as a teacher one month before she was sixteen years old. She taught her home school during the summer following, and then went to school and taught alternately for six years, or until her marriage with Mr. Johnston. In September, 1853, she came to McLean county, Illinois, with her husband, making the journey in a two-horse wagon, and coming through in eleven days. When near Valparaiso, Indiana, they were molested by horse thieves, but, owing to her watchfulness, their property was saved, and the thieves fled for their own safety. On arriving here they located in Allin township, and here their family, consisting of four sons, was reared, and all are now self-supporting temperance men.

Lucian C., the eldest of the family was born July 12, 1854, in Danvers, Illinois. At four years of age, he could read, and at sixteen, was far enough advanced in his studies to enter Wesleyan University, which he attended for three years. He later taught the home and adjoining schools with great success. He married Miss Ellen B. Dickinson, January 1, 1878, President Adams of the university, officiating. She is a daughter of J. Q. and Eliza (Major)

Dickinson, and was born in Danvers, Illinois, in 1849. John Qualls Dickinson died in Fresno, California, July 10, 1899, and was buried in Danvers, Illinois, July 15, 1899, besides his wife, who died in Danvers in September, 1890; both were highly respected citizens, members of the Christian Church and natives of Kentucky. In September, 1878, Lucian took a trip to Nebraska, and decided to make that state his future home. Returning he at once began to arrange his business preparatory to removal, and despite the protests of his many friends, February 11, 1879, he left Danvers, Illinois, and one month later his wife and son left to join him. Their household goods arriving, they were unloaded, they began their domestic lives in a little "shack," devoid of comforts.

"But in ourselves the sunshine dwells,  
And in ourselves the music swells."

He has dealt largely in sheep and land and horses, all with his own money. By close attention to business, they have become exceedingly prosperous, and have the management of twenty-five improved farms. They now reside in a comfortable, happy home in the city of Seward. They have one child, Walter C., who is a graduate of city high school, Seward, Nebraska, in the classical course, and is also a graduate of Lincoln Business College, in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Alva Edwin, the second in order of birth, was born March 16, 1859. After receiving good, common-school advantages, he entered the Illinois Wesleyan University, at Bloomington, and made rapid progress. He became quite proficient in short hand, and in 1885 visited California, and in 1886 went to Colorado and engaged in the cattle business, which did not prove very success-

ful. While in Colorado he had two narrow escapes. Once he was thrown from a mule's back and had an arm broken, at which time he was compelled to go forty miles to secure the aid of a surgeon, reaching the doctor forty-eight hours after. It took three men to hold him to receive the treatment. He was next attacked by a vicious bull which pitched him over a wire fence, and he lay for several hours unconscious. Returning home, on the 21st of February, 1894, he was united in marriage with Miss Emma D. Schellenberger, daughter of Edward and Mrs. (Porter) Schellenberger, of Mackinew, Illinois, Mr. Schellenberger is a native of Pennsylvania, and both are highly respected citizens. Emma D., was born in August, 1873, in Mackinaw. She is a lady of more than ordinary literary culture, and a teacher of ability. They now reside in Sacramento, Nebraska, where he owns a quarter-section of well improved land.

Milo D., born May 30, 1866, secured a good common school education, then attended high school for three years under Prof. Bangs, a teacher of marked distinction. In 1887 he went to Colorado, took up land on a large scale, and after sinking a well seventy-five feet deep, planted trees, plowed and planted corn, but the high winds, and the blistering rays of "Old Sol" destroyed all his hopes, and he secured but a few corn stalks. Leaving Colorado, in 1888, he went to Nebraska, where he taught school with great success. In 1891 he returned to Illinois, where he has since continued to remain. He is still unmarried, having evaded Cupid's darts to the present time. He owns a half-section of land under good cultivation, together with much personal property. He is tenderly

caring for his invalid father, and is also smoothing the pathway of life for his loving mother, on the old homestead, near Danvers, Illinois.

Virgil W., born March 15, 1871, was a stammerer in his speech until seventeen years old, which threatened to destroy his usefulness in life. Hearing of Prof. Edwin Johnston, of Philadelphia, he went to that city, and after five weeks' treatment by the professor, he returned to his home cured, and a very happy man. By the same treatment he has been able to cure many who had been afflicted as he had been. He graduated from Brown's Business College in Chicago, in 1891, and during the World's Fair in that city, acted as one of the guards for four months, and then in a clerical position until its close. In 1894 he entered the law school of the Illinois Wesleyan University from which he graduated in June, 1896, with high honors. He is now engaged in the practice of his profession at Champaign and Urbana, Illinois, and is on the road to success. On the 3d of August, 1898, he was united in marriage with Miss Vinnie Vesta Vennum, of Normal, Illinois, but born in Bellflower, Illinois, August 21, 1877, and daughter of F. B. and Sarah (Marsh) Vennum, her father being a banker and capitalist of Champaign, Illinois. She was given the advantage of a fine musical and literary education. They reside in Urbana, Illinois, where he is in the abstract business, having two offices, one of which is located in Champaign. He is doing a large and profitable business in that line.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnston make their home on the old homestead, where they have lived for nearly half a century. In 1891 Mr. Johnston was stricken with paralysis, from which he has never recovered, but he

bears his sufferings patiently, knowing that in the life to come he will receive the crown, and that all sufferings will be at an end. Both enjoy the respect and esteem of a large circle of friends, while their children have for them unbounded love.

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**H** F. COOPER, who resides on section thirty-two, Danvers township, where he is engaged in farming and stock raising, is a native of the township, born January 13, 1862, in a log cabin where his present home now stands. He is a son of Jacob and Mary J. (Pierce) Cooper, the former a native of Virginia, born January 12, 1828, and the latter a native of Ohio, born April 28, 1830, and daughter of John Pierce, a native of Ohio, who was there engaged in farming, and who never came to Illinois, but died in his native state.

When Jacob Cooper was thirteen years of age, his parents moved from Virginia to Ohio, and located in Green county. There his father, John Cooper, purchased a tract of timber land, which he proceeded to clear for farming purposes. While engaged in that work, he was accidentally killed, and Jacob, and his four younger brothers, took up the work, cleared the land of its heavy timber, and in due time had a fine farm. Before leaving Ohio, he was united in marriage with Miss Mary J. Pierce, and in August, 1849, with his wife and one child, he came to McLean county in a covered wagon, and was seventeen days on the journey. Arriving here, he had but eleven dollars, and what household goods he brought in the wagon. For two years he rented land, and in 1851 he took up eighty acres of government land and commenced to make it a fine farm. He next purchased forty acres, and

later took up another eighty-acre tract, and then purchased one hundred and fifty acres from another party, and then an eighty-acre tract. He sold an eighty-acre tract and gave to his eldest son eighty acres, leaving him a farm of one hundred and ninety acres. On that farm he lived until 1885, when he moved to the village of Danvers, and has since lived a retired life.

To Jacob Cooper and wife were born five children. Charles William married Miss Mattie Dehart, and with their two children, they make their home in Normal, Illinois. Margaret E. married Emmett Williams, and to them were born three children. She died in 1887, at the age of thirty-four years. Louisa and Parry Zaid Agnes, make their home with their parents in Danvers. H. F., who is fifth in order of birth, is the subject of this sketch. In politics Jacob is a Republican, and among the official positions held were road commissioner and school director. He is a member of the Presbyterian church, as is also his wife.

The subject of this sketch was reared on the old home farm, where he yet makes his home, and after receiving his education in the district school, he took charge of the farm for his father. On the 31st of December, 1885, he was united in marriage with Miss McElla J. Haines, a native of Ohio, born February 1, 1864, and daughter of Robert Haines, a well-known farmer of Allin township. She passed to her reward May 26, 1898, her loss being mourned by a bereaved husband and many friends.

Mr. Cooper has the reputation of being a good farmer, one who thoroughly understands his business. In addition to general farming, he has given attention to stock-raising, and has upon his place some very



fine sheep, which have won a number of prizes at various fairs. He has also on his place some very fine horses of his own raising. In politics he is a staunch Republican. Fraternally he was formerly a member of the Knights of Pythias at Stanford.

**I**SAAC N. RINEHART, the present popular and efficient supervisor of Bellflower township, was born in Perry county, Pennsylvania, March 16, 1848, a son of Frederick and Mary (Ulsh) Rinehart, also natives of that county. The paternal grandfather, Frederick Rineheart, Sr., was also born there, and throughout life was one of its leading and prominent citizens, representing the county for three terms in the Pennsylvania legislature. His wife bore the maiden name of Susan Cline. The maternal grandfather, Capt. Joseph Ulsh, served with distinction as an officer in the war of 1812, and in 1849 he and his three sons were among the gold seekers who went to California. By occupation the father of our subject was a farmer and stock raiser, and became quite an extensive land owner in Perry county. He, too, was prominent in political affairs and was honored with a number of offices. When the civil war broke out he enlisted in Company C, First Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, and was elected sergeant of his company. He was wounded at the battle of Antietam, having his left arm removed from the socket, and he was afterwards appointed by the government as overseer of the Soldiers' Home at Hampton Roads, Virginia. He died in 1883, but his wife is still living at the age of seventy-five and now finds a pleasant home with our subject. To them were born six children who are still living, namely: Fred-

erick, a resident of Farmer City, Illinois; Isaac N., our subject; Allen R. and Charles D., also of Farmer City; Mary, wife of George Rumbaugh, of Perry county, Pennsylvania; and Henry W., of the same county.

In the county of his nativity, Isaac N. Rineheart grew to manhood on the home farm and received a common school education. On starting out in life for himself he chose the occupation to which he had been reared, and for sixteen years rented land of Governor Beaver in Perry county. In 1883 he came to DeWitt county, Illinois, where his brothers had previously located, and after operating rented land there for two years, he removed to Franklin county, Kansas, where he purchased eighty acres within two miles and a half of Ottawa, on which he engaged in farming for four years. There he took an active part in public affairs, serving as school director, township treasurer two years, and road overseer. From Kansas he went to Walla Walla county, Washington, and for six years owned and operated two hundred acres there, during which time he filled the office of school director and road commissioner and the last year was city marshal of Waitsburg. Selling his property in that state, he started eastward on the 12th of May, 1895, with two wagons, six horses, and his family, consisting of seven children, and after three months and a half of travel overland arrived in McLean county, Illinois. The following year he rented a half section of land of S. D. Oliver, and then located on his present farm in Bellflower township, comprising three hundred and twenty acres on sections 4 and 21. In connection with general farming he is now engaged in breeding good road horses.



On the 26th of June, 1873, in Pennsylvania, Mr. Rinehart married Miss Louisa Dimm, a daughter of Jacob and Eve (Stineling) Dimm, of that state, and by that union two children were born: Mary J., now the wife of A. S. Wickersham, of Nez Perces county, Idaho; and Louisa, wife of Charles James, of Mansfield, Illinois. The wife and mother died February 18, 1876, and Mr. Rinehart was again married, February 28, 1878, his second union being with Miss Minerva C. Cox, a daughter of David B. Cox, of Pennsylvania. Nine children have been born of the second marriage, namely: Emma C., wife of Charles Kennedy, of Nez Perces county, Idaho; Fred D., a resident of the state of Washington; Joseph R., a traveling salesman; Isaac N., Pearl, June R., Randolph, John P. and Nelly F., all at home.

Religiously. Mr. Rinehart is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and socially belongs to Bellflower Lodge, No. 659, I. O. O. F. Politically, he is a Democrat, but at local elections votes independently. In the spring of 1898 he was elected school trustee in Bellflower township, and a year later was elected to the office of supervisor, which he is now most capably and satisfactorily filling.

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FRANK BISHOP, a member of the well-known firm of Bishop & Weedman, dealers in grain, lumber, coal and agricultural implements at Sabina, Illinois, is a man of good business ability, sound judgment and keen discrimination, and in his undertakings he is meeting with well deserved success. A native of McLean county, he was born in West township January 12, 1855, and is a worthy representative of

one of the oldest and best known families of the county, his parents being Stephen L. and Catherine (Craig) Bishop.

The grandfather, Malon Bishop, an honored pioneer and prominent citizen of this county, was born in Clark county, Ohio, December 25, 1810, and was there married March 23, 1831, to Miss Catherine Foley, also a native of Ohio. The ancestors of both were from Virginia. To them were born eight children, but only three are now living, namely: Nancy J., born October 13, 1832, is the wife of Mark M. Craig, of West township; Catherine, born April 4, 1842, is the wife of W. W. Hammond, of Empire township, and Malon, born June 13, 1849, is a resident of Le Roy. After his marriage the grandfather of our subject made his home in Clark and Champaign counties, Ohio, until the fall of 1834, when he came to McLean county, Illinois, and first located in Old Town township, but the following spring removed to Buckles Grove, near Le Roy, having entered land there the previous January. In June, 1835, the roof of his pioneer home was torn off by a tornado. He was an active member of society and was especially prominent in political affairs. The first office he was called upon to fill was that of justice of the peace, and in 1842 he was elected to the state legislature. His service in that position was notable, it being during the troublesome times of early days when the country was infested with outlaws, the banks were in a precarious condition, the Mormon troubles were to be considered, and the large sum of one million six hundred thousand dollars was to be raised for the completion of the Illinois & Michigan canal. His services through this critical period were most praiseworthy. He served as supervisor of his township in

1863 and 1864. He was a pronounced Democrat in politics and in religious faith was a Methodist. He died at home in Empire township, February, 1882, honored and respected by all who knew him.

Stephen L. Bishop, father of our subject, was born January 14, 1835, in Empire township, where he grew to manhood, and on starting out in life for himself located on a farm on section 17, West township, where our subject was born. He was three times married, his first wife being Miss Catherine Craig, who died when their only child, our subject, was only a year and two months old. Soon afterward the father broke up housekeeping, sold his farm and embarked in merchantile business at Le Roy, which he carried on for several years. In the meantime he married Cynthia A. Rice, and the only child born to them was Myra, wife of George A. Shrigley, of Empire township. Late in life he was again married, his third union being with Kate Crumbaugh, but had no children by that union. After disposing of his store in Le Roy, he again engaged in farming in Empire township, where he remained until 1896, and then lived retired in Le Roy until his death, which occurred December 30, 1898. He was a man of prominence in public life, and served his fellow citizens in the capacity of assessor and collector for several terms. In his political views he was a Republican. His widow still resides in Le Roy.

After the death of his mother, Frank Bishop, of this review, made his home with his paternal grandparents until twenty-three years of age, when he began his business career as a farmer of Empire township, and successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1895. He then disposed of his land and bought the interest of Mr. Sarver, of

the firm of Whittaker & Sarver, in his present business, the name being changed to Whittaker, Bishop & Company. In 1898 Mr. Weedman purchased Mr. Whittaker's share of the business, which has since been conducted under the style of Bishop & Weedman. They are well-equipped for carrying on their business, having a good elevator with modern conveniences for handling and preparing grain for market; and in connection have a neat and commodious office and a warehouse for machinery. They are located in the center of McLean county's fertile grain belt, and the quantity of grain handled by them is truly surprising.

On the 2d of October, 1878, Mr. Bishop married Miss Matilda E. Wamsley, who was born in McLean county, February 10, 1857, and is a daughter of Charles and Mary J. (Whittaker) Wamsley, natives of Kentucky and early settlers of this county. Her parents now make their home in Le Roy. They have only two children, the younger being Thomas, also a resident of Le Roy. To Mr. and Mrs. Bishop have been born four children, namely: Walter C., Belle K., Charles L., who was named for both of his grandfathers; and Lester F. Fraternally Mr. Bishop is a Master Mason, belonging to Le Roy Lodge, No. 221, F. & A. M., and politically he affiliates with the Republican party. He has held a number of local offices since coming to Sabina, and served as town clerk in 1896 and 1897.

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WILLIAM T. BRADBURY, who is now living retired in the village of Bellflower, was for many years actively engaged in agricultural pursuits in this county, and is one of the prominent and influential

citizens of his community, and has been continuously called upon to fill some office of honor and trust in his township. He is a native of Ohio, born in Clermont county, June 26, 1830, and is a son of John E. and Maria (Thomas) Bradbury, natives of Maine and Ohio, respectively. The paternal grandfather, Benjamin Bradbury, was also born in Maine; from there removed to New York, and subsequently made his home in Ohio, and finally in Perry, Illinois, where he died at the advanced age of ninety-five years.

John E. Bradbury, the father of our subject, was born in 1800, and in early life removed to Ohio, where he first married a Miss Cord, who died leaving no children. His second wife was the mother of our subject, by whom he had two sons and one daughter: William T., of this review; James W., who spent the latter part of his life in Griggsville, Illinois; and Ruth A., wife of Rev. Caleb B. Mock, a member of the Northwestern Indiana conference, and now pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church at Lafayette. In the spring of 1836 the family removed to Morgan county, Illinois, and settled near Jacksonville, where the father died the following August. They then returned to Ohio, where the mother subsequently married William McMahan, and for some years thereafter the family made their home in Marion county, Indiana. In 1857 they returned to Illinois, and this time located in Griggsville, where both Mr. and Mrs. McMahan died. Three children were born to them: Levi W.; Harriet, wife of James Shinn; and George M.

The subject of this sketch was only six years old when he was left fatherless. Although he continued to make his home with his mother, he worked out most of the time. When ten years of age, during the

log-cabin and hard-cider campaign, he removed with his family to Marion county, Indiana, and a few years later went to Hendricks county, that state, where he was employed on a farm. His education was principally received in the chimney corner by the light of hickory bark; but at the age of seventeen he was well-fitted to engage in teaching, and successfully followed that profession for several years, having charge of the school in his home district for two years.

In Boone county, Indiana, April 4, 1852, Mr. Bradbury led to the marriage altar Miss Tempa E. Gibson, who was born in that county, December 11, 1834, and is a daughter of John and Elizabeth (Gillett) Gibson, natives of Virginia and North Carolina, respectively. Nine children were born of this union, namely: John E., who resides on the home farm and is usually known as Dick; Louisa, who died in infancy; Hattie E., who married N. B. Carson, county coroner of McLean county, and died leaving four children; Edward and Edgar, twins, the former of whom married Katie Kriete, the latter Ida Smith; Myrtis M., wife of W. Douglas Barnhart, a farmer of North Loop, Valley county, Nebraska; James M., who died June 13, 1894, in his twenty-fourth year; Nellie, who died in infancy; and Thomas W., who married Ida Burnette. Three of the sons live on the home farm.

For about four years after his marriage Mr. Bradbury was engaged in mercantile business with his brother-in-law, Mr. Mock, at Carpentersville, Indiana, but was forced to retire from that business on account of poor health. During the following two years he engaged in farming in that state, and in the fall of 1860 came to McLean county, Illinois. After renting a farm in



Cheneys Grove township for one season, he removed to Bellflower township, where he rented the Philip Hyatt farm until 1869, when he purchased eighty acres there. A year later he sold that place and bought eighty acres on section 17, which was partially improved. In his farming operations here he met with most excellent success, and is now the owner of one hundred and sixty acres on section 17, a like amount on section 18, and one hundred and twenty acres on section 9, Bellflower township, all under a high state of cultivation and well improved. He followed general farming and stock raising until 1892, when he turned over the management of the farm to his sons and removed to the village of Bellflower, where he is now living retired, but for two years of his residence here he was interested in the grain business at Delaney.

Since casting his first presidential ballot for Fremont in 1856, Mr. Bradbury has been a stanch Republican, and he has most creditably and acceptably filled a number of local offices. He was elected supervisor in 1864, in which capacity he served for one year; in 1883 was re-elected and served for fifteen consecutive years; in 1867 was elected township treasurer and filled that office for the long period of thirty-two years; was township collector seventeen years; assessor two years; commissioner of highways two years; and school director for several years. He has ever discharged his official duties with promptness and fidelity, worthy of all commendation, and his life has ever been such as to win for him the respect and esteem of all with whom he comes in contact. He and his wife are both faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal church and for many years he has served as one of its trustees.

**E** M. MERRITT, who has a fine farm of one hundred and ninety-seven acres on section 32, Cheney's Grove township, which is kept under a high state of cultivation, is a native son of Illinois, being born in LaSalle county, near Mendota, January 2, 1862. His father, Henry M. Merritt, was born in Cayuga county, New York, and there spent his boyhood and youth, coming to Illinois in early manhood and locating in LaSalle county. He there married Miss Anna Eliza Freeland, a native of Indiana, and daughter of Richard Freeland. In 1872 he came with his family to McLean county and located in Bellflower township, where he purchased a partly improved farm of two hundred and eighty acres. On that farm he remained for a number of years, adding to its area, however, by the addition of one hundred and sixty acres. He was a good farmer and everything about his place denoted the thrift of the owner. He later moved to Saybrook, where his death occurred in December, 1897. His wife died in the same place in January, 1894.

The subject of this sketch was ten years old when he came with his parents to McLean county, and on the home farm in Bellflower township he grew to manhood, in the meantime assisting his father in the cultivation of the farm, and attending the district schools as the opportunity was afforded him. He also attended the high school at Saybrook, and thus secured a good practical education, which has stood him well in life.

On the 18th of October, 1882, in Old Town township, he was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth McBarnes, who is a native of McLean county, a daughter of D. McBarnes, a substantial farmer of Old Town township. After attending the dis-



trict school, she entered Wesleyan University and took a special course, and after leaving that school engaged for a time in teaching in the public schools of the county. By this union two children were born—Dickey and Nellie.

Soon after his marriage, Mr. Merritt began farming in Bellflower township, a place of one hundred and sixty acres, and there remained seven years. In 1890, he purchased one hundred and seventeen acres of his present farm, to which he later added eighty acres. Since removing to the place he has made some permanent improvements, and the farm is one of the most productive ones in the county.

Politically Mr. Merritt is a staunch Republican, and has been an earnest advocate of the principles of the party since casting his first presidential vote for James G. Blaine in 1884. He has always taken an active interest in local political affairs and has been a delegate to various conventions of his party. He was elected and served one term as commissioner of highways, and in 1898 was elected a member of the county board of supervisors for the term of two years. He is serving on several committees, the most important being the committee on equalization of taxes. He has taken a commendable interest in educational affairs, and has been for some time a member of the school board. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Saybrook, his wife being a member of the same church. Fraternally he is a member of the Knights of Pythias. As a citizen he is enterprising, always ready to advocate and do his part in any enterprise calculated to build up his adopted county, and especially his township. Both he and his wife are held in high esteem by all who know them.

**H**LINDSEY HARRIS, M. D., is a physician of acknowledged skill and ability, having a wide practice throughout the section of country in which he lives, especially in diseases of women, and in all rectal troubles, having for twenty-five years made a specialty of those diseases, and in the treatment of which he has met with great success. He is a native of Kentucky, born in Nicholasville, Jessamine county, August 29, 1846, and is the son of Milton and Sarah (Phillips) Harris, both of whom were natives of the same county and state. The paternal grandfather, Thomas Harris, was a native of Virginia, and one of the early settlers of Kentucky. He was one of a large family of brothers, and was a Methodist minister throughout his life. The father was a farmer by occupation, and the only one of a large family of boys but was a minister or physician.

Milton Harris came with his father to McLean county when the subject of this sketch was but six months old, coming by way of the Ohio, Mississippi and Illinois rivers to Pekin, thence by teams to Bloomington. He engaged in farming in McLean county and continued to be thus employed here until 1866, when he removed to Toronto, Kansas, where he is yet living at the age of seventy-six years.

The subject of this sketch was reared on the home farm, and remained with his parents until in August, 1864, when he enlisted in Company C, Twentieth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of the war, taking part with his regiment in all the engagements in which it participated from Atlanta until its final muster out. At Atlanta the regiment went into the engagement one hundred and sixty strong, and at the close of the day's fighting but sixteen

men answered to roll call. That night they were selected by General Leggett to be his body guard. The Twentieth Illinois Volunteer Infantry was one of the best regiments in the service.

On his return from the war, our subject entered Eureka College and spent two years. His funds becoming exhausted, he commenced teaching to replenish them, and while teaching read medicine under the direction of Dr. J. W. Waters, of Lexington, Illinois. He continued his reading and teaching until the fall of 1872, when he went to Chicago and entered Rush Medical College, from which he graduated in the class of 1875. In May of that year he went to Foosland, Champaign county, Illinois, opened an office and engaged in practice. After remaining there for eleven years, he moved to Saybrook, McLean county, where he remained until March, 1890, and then moved to Bellflower, where he has since remained, having built up an extensive practice. For the past ten years he has made a specialty of the treatment of the diseases of women and of all rectal troubles. His success has been remarkable, and many persons who were afflicted unhesitatingly make the statement that they owe their lives to his treatment. He does not profess to be a cure-all, and will not take a case that he believes to be incurable. After an examination, he tells the patient frankly what he thinks of the case, and whether he believes that he can be of service or not. He thus inspires confidence in the patient, and as stated, the cures effected are remarkable, indeed.

The Doctor is no politician, in the current acceptation of the term, and believes in giving his time and best efforts to his profession. He is a member of the Christian church, and was one of the organizers

of the church in Bellflower. He has always taken an interest in its work, and has been a teacher in the Sunday school. Fraternally he is a Royal Arch Mason, and has passed all the chairs in the blue lodge and chapter. Since residing in Bellflower he has been the local surgeon of the Illinois Central Railroad, and is now a member of the National Association of Railroad Surgeons.

On the 2d of April, 1868, Dr. Harris was united in marriage with Miss Lucretia Henline, daughter of Martin and Ferby (Cunningham) Henline, early settlers of McLean county, to which they came from Kentucky. She is a native of McLean county, and was born in May, 1849. One daughter came to bless their union, Ella, now the wife of August Rhodes, a farmer of Bellflower township.

The Doctor and his wife are held in high esteem wherever known, and their friends are many in McLean and adjoining counties, where almost their entire lives were spent. The Doctor has a neat residence in the village of Bellflower, together with eight lots.

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ELIJAH W. CLARK is an enterprising, progressive and successful business man of Delana, Illinois, carrying on operations as a dealer in grain, coal and live stock. He is a native of McLean county, born November 3, 1864, on his father's farm on section 22, West township, and is a son of John and Elizabeth (Seaborn) Clark, natives of Illinois and Somersetshire, England, respectively. The father was born July 31, 1833, and in 1846 came to America with his parents, Sampson and Susan (Irish) Clark, locating on a farm in Pike county, Illinois,

where he grew to manhood and was married. He came to McLean county and settled on a farm on section 28, West township, but after a short time spent here he returned to Pike county. After his marriage he again came to this county and made his home on section 22, West township, until 1891, when he removed to Umatilla, Florida, where he now resides. He was one of the best-known and most highly-respected citizens of this locality, and was noted for his benevolence and readiness to assist by counsel or pecuniary aid those in need. He was a consistent and conscientious man, was a Democrat in political sentiment and most creditably filled a number of local offices. In business he prospered and became quite well-to-do. His wife died in 1865, leaving two children: Belinda, who married Richard F. Rice, of Florida, and is now deceased; and Elijah W., of this review.

Our subject was reared upon his father's farm, and was educated in the district schools and Wesleyan College of Bloomington. On starting out in life for himself he first engaged in farming, but in 1891 became interested in the mercantile and grain business at Delana as a member of the firm of Daniels, Irish & Clark, but since 1895 has been alone in business as a dealer in grain, coal and live stock. He also owns and operates a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 27, West township.

On the 13th of January, 1886, Mr. Clark was united in marriage with Miss Martha E. Daniels, who was born in Heyworth, McLean county, and is a daughter of Alexander and Esther (Kinsey) Daniels. They now have an interesting family of four children, namely: Arthur L., Elizabeth A., John D. and Lena A. In his political views Mr. Clark is a stanch Democrat, and in

1891 he was appointed to the office of supervisor of his township. Religiously, he is a member of Center Chapel Methodist Episcopal church, and socially, belongs to the Knights of Pythias Lodge, at Bellflower, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Loyal Sons of America.

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THOMAS L. PAULLIN. Ohio has furnished to this county many of its best and most progressive citizens, and among the number must be mentioned the subject of this interview, who now resides on section 20, Bellflower township, where he owns and operates a valuable farm of two hundred acres. He was born in Greene county, Ohio, September 8, 1849, a son of Jacob H. and Martha A. (Colvin) Paullin. The father was born in the same county in 1824, and died December 25, 1889, while the mother was born near Winchester, Virginia, in about 1822, and died July 21, 1884. They were married in Ohio. In 1848 the father made a trip through Illinois in search of a location, and three years later settled near Atlanta, Logan county, becoming one of the pioneers of that locality. He broke many acres of land with four and six ox teams, and took an active and prominent part in the development of the county. He was an extensive land owner, and also fed and handled a great deal of stock. In his family were seven children, namely: Thomas L., our subject; Charles E., a merchant of Springfield, Illinois; David C., a resident of Newkirk, Oklahoma; John M., who lives on the old homestead in Logan county; Laura E., a celebrated physician in the Prince Sanitarium of Springfield; Abraham, a resident of Ridgeway, Missouri; and George W., who is also living on the



old homestead in Logan county. The paternal grandfather of our subject, Jacob Paullin, was a pioneer of Greene county, Ohio, and helped erect the block-house there for protection from the Indians.

Our subject was but two years of age when the family removed to Logan county, Illinois, and there he grew to manhood, receiving a liberal education in the common schools and the Normal Institute. On the 11th of December, 1870, he was united in marriage with Miss Nannie J. Constant, a daughter of William N. and Elizabeth (Walker) Constant. The children born to them were Ernest, who died in infancy; Edna L., now the wife of Charles P. Guest, who is connected with the Smith Wholesale Grocery Company of Springfield; John W.; Wilbur J.; and Roy E.

For two years after his marriage, Mr. Paullin engaged in farming upon his father's land in Logan county, and then came to McLean county where his father had purchased land for grazing purposes, being extensively engaged in the stock business. Our subject located upon this place, and with a breaking plow turned many acres of virgin soil. For thirteen years he continued the work of improvement and cultivation and then removed to Normal, where he was engaged in the coal and agricultural implement business until 1887, when he went to Sangamon county. There Mrs. Paullin owns property inherited from her mother's estate, consisting of a valuable farm of two hundred and forty acres near Springfield and a residence in the city. Upon that farm they made their home until the spring of 1899, when they returned to McLean county, Mr. Paulin now devotes his time and attention to the operation of his farm on section 30, Bellflower township, and is meeting with

most gratifying success. Besides his property here he also owns a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Shelby county. His home farm is thoroughly tiled and otherwise well improved, and is one of the most desirable farms of its size in the township.

Mr. Paullin has led too busy and active a life to devote much time to political affairs, but is a stanch Republican from principles, and his interest in educational matters has led him to serve as school director for twelve or fifteen years. Socially, he is a Master Mason, and religiously, he and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. The family is one of prominence in the community where they reside, and their hospitable home is always open for the reception of their many friends.

Mrs. Paullin was born in Sangamon county, March 21, 1854, and is the sixth in order of birth in a family of seven children, the others being as follows: Hiram, who at the time of his death, January 20, 1889, was serving as mayor of Hutchinson, Kansas, and his wife as city treasurer; Sarah E., widow of William E. Graeser, and a resident of Springfield, Illinois; Jesse, who is engaged in the dairy business in St. Louis, Missouri; Edward, a ranchman of Bothell, Washington; and Jonathan and Willie, who both died in childhood. The father of these children, William N. Constant, was born in Clermont, Ohio, in 1819, and was a lad of six years when he removed with his family to Sangamon county, Illinois. His father, Jacob Constant, was a native of France and was an officer in the French army. When that country extended aid to the colonies in their struggle for independence, he was sent here in command of troops or in some position of authority. After the war he received a soldier's warrant for fif-



teen hundred acres of land, which he located within seven miles of Boonesboro, Kentucky, where a fort had been established, which he assisted a Mr. Stroud in commanding. He married Miss Eleanor Clinkerbeard. In 1814 they sold their property in Kentucky and removed to Clermont county, Ohio, where he purchased a tract of fifteen hundred acres, remaining there until coming to Illinois in 1825 with a colony of thirty families, who located ten miles east of the present city of Springfield. Indians at that time were still very numerous in the locality and wild game of all kinds abounded. In Sangamon county he entered land for his twelve children, but he was not long permitted to enjoy his new home and he died within two years of his arrival here. William Constant continued his residence in Sangamon county until 1854, when he sold his property there and removed to Bloomington, where he purchased land and was engaged in active business for many years, but is now living retired at the age of eighty years with his daughter, Mrs. Paullin. In politics he was first a Whig and later a Republican, and cast his first presidential vote for W. H. Harrison. Since the age of sixteen years he has been a zealous and faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and is honored and esteemed wherever known.

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**THOMAS D. IRISH.** As an enterprising and wide-awake business man of Delana, and one who, through his own efforts, has achieved success, we take pleasure in giving a brief biography of the gentleman whose name stands at the head of this sketch. Under the firm name of Thomas D. Irish & Co. he is engaged in

general merchandising at Delana, carrying a large and complete stock of dry goods, groceries, boots, shoes, hats, caps, notions, family medicines, agricultural implements, and, indeed, almost everything people wish to buy. He also handles all kinds of country produce which they wish to sell.

Mr. Irish was born in Somersetshire, England, August 11, 1854, a son of John and Mary (Driver) Irish, the former also a native of Somersetshire, the latter of Scotland. They were married in England, and the father, who was a land owner, followed the occupation of farming there throughout life. The grandfather, Josiah Irish, was also a native of Somersetshire, where the family have made their home for many generations. Our subject is one of six children, of whom only two came to America, the other being James, who for twenty years has served in the United States regular army, enlisting at Detroit, Michigan.

Thomas D. Irish was educated in the schools of his native land, and remained in that country until 1874, when he emigrated to Canada. Two years later he went to Chicago, and from there engaged in boating on the lakes for three years and a half. During the following year he was engaged in agricultural pursuits in McLean county, and then returned to England. For a year and a half he engaged in sailing on a line of vessels running from Glasgow, Scotland, his first voyage being to Australia, around Cape Horn, and back to Limerick, Ireland. Returning to America in 1881, he located in McLean county, where for twelve years he engaged in farming, but in June, 1892, in company with Messrs. Clark and Daniels, he embarked in his present business at Delana under the firm name of Daniels, Irish & Clark, and, in addition to general mer-

chandise, they handled grain for a time. At the end of nine months, Mr. Daniels withdrew, and the firm became Irish & Clark. It was again changed in 1895, when the grain business was dropped, becoming Thomas D. Irish & Co., and our subject now conducts the business alone, with good success.

On the 10th of August, 1880, at Brisbane, Australia, Mr. Irish wedded Miss Mary Lowther, a native of County Tyrone, Ireland, and a daughter of Walter and Eliza (Jack) Lowther, and by this union were born four children: Janie, Harry, Percy and Vera. Janie was born on the South Pacific ocean. The other three were born in West township, McLean county, Illinois. Socially, Mr. Irish is a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Bellflower, and the Modern Woodmen camp at Delana, while politically he is identified with the Republican party. He is serving as postmaster at Delana, and in 1899 was elected supervisor of West township, a position he is now most creditably and acceptably filling. He is an upright and reliable business man and commands the confidence and respect of all with whom he comes in contact.

**EDWARD PATTON**, a prominent agriculturist and highly-respected citizen of Dry Grove township, who owns and operates a fine farm of two hundred acres on section 9, was born in Maryland, August 3, 1848, a son of Henry and Annie E. (Kinsinger) Patton. The father was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, May 9, 1820, a son of Robert and Eve (Glotfelty) Patton, also natives of the Keystone state, and the former a farmer and shoemaker by occupation. Robert Patton died in Penn-

sylvania at the age of seventy-five years, his wife at the age of sixty-two. Henry Patton, father of our subject, was the oldest of their eleven children. On the 5th of February, 1844, he married Miss Annie E. Kinsinger, a native of Germany, and soon afterward moved to Maryland, where they made their home for nine years. The following year was passed in Pennsylvania, and in 1854 they came to Illinois, locating first in Woodford county, where the father operated rented land for two years. At the end of that time they came to McLean county, and in 1864 purchased three hundred and twenty-two acres of land on section 1, Dry Grove township, where the father died in about 1888, and the mother one year later. Both were consistent and faithful members of the German Reformed church, and in politics he was a Republican.

Our subject, who is the third in order of birth in a family of ten children, accompanied his parents on their removal to this state, and his education was mostly acquired in Woodford and McLean counties. He remained under the parental roof until twenty-two years of age, and was then married to Miss Sophronia Eyer, a native of Ohio and a daughter of Rudolph Eyer, who came to this county at an early day and first settled in White Oak township, but spent the last year of his life in Dry Grove township. To Mr. and Mrs. Patton have been born three children: Albert H., who is at home with his father; Leonard B., who died at the age of eighteen months; and Cora Edna, at home.

After his marriage Mr. Patton at first rented land of a Mr. Rhodes, in White Oak township, and then purchased eighty acres of his present farm on section 9, Dry Grove township, to which he has since added one

forty and another eighty acre tract, making two-hundred acres in one body. This he has placed under a high state of cultivation, has thoroughly tiled, has erected good buildings thereon and made all necessary improvements, so that he now has one of the best farms of its size in the locality. He also owns twelve acres of timberland in Kansas township, Woodford county. His time and attention are principally devoted to general farming, and is meeting with most gratifying success. He is a member of the Mutual Insurance Company of Stanford, and give his support to every enterprise which he believes is calculated to prove of public benefit. Politically he is identified with the Republican party, and for eighteen consecutive years he has most efficiently served as school director in his district. Religiously he and his wife and son are all earnest members of the Mennonite church, and in the best social circles of the community they occupy an enviable position.

**H**ENRY WINN, a well-known farmer and stock raiser, residing on section 11, Dry Grove township, is the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of well-improved land, on which he has lived for many years. He was born in Ireland, February 28, 1816, and is the son of Thomas and Mary (Prescott) Winn, both of whom were natives of Ireland, and who came to the United States shortly after their marriage. On coming to America, Thomas Winn located in Muskingum county, Ohio, where he purchased land, and followed farming during the remainder of his life. He died in 1838 or 1839. His wife survived him twenty years, dying at the age of eighty years. They were the parents of eight

children—Edward, Henry, Thomas, Anna, William, Robert, Mary and John. Of these, our subject and Mary are the only ones now living. In politics, Thomas Winn was a Democrat. His wife was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in his native state, and was educated in the subscription schools, before the era of free schools. When he was about twenty years old he left school, and worked by the month for about four years. In 1840 he came to McLean county, and remained there about six months; but thinking the land was of little value, he returned to Ohio, where he was soon afterward united in marriage with Miss Caroline Standiford, a native of Ohio, and daughter of Skelton and Nancy Standiford, residents of Muskingum county, where the former was engaged in farming. By this union there was one son, William S., who grew to manhood, and during the civil war enlisted in an Illinois regiment, and died at New Orleans, shortly after the surrender of Vicksburg, and after serving about one year.

In 1846 Mr. Winn thought that he would once more try Illinois, and with his wife and child came to McLean county and located in Dry Grove township, where he rented land for three years, and then purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres. In his youth he learned the carpenter's trade, an occupation that he followed for many years, both in Ohio and after coming to McLean county. He did a large amount of contracting and building of dwellings and barns after his coming to this county, following the business in connection with farming.

For his second wife Mr. Winn chose Miss Celia Garrett, a native of Tennessee,



and daughter of John Garrett, who was engaged in farming in his native state. By this marriage there were two children. Annel married Martin Curtis, and they have three children, Lydia A., Nora M. and Rebecca. They make their home in Woodford county, Illinois. The second born died in infancy. Mrs. Winn died January 9, 1887.

In early life Mr. Winn was an advocate of Whig principles, and cast his first presidential vote for William Henry Harrison in the memorable campaign of 1840. On the organization of the Republican party, he became an adherent of the new organization. In the fifty-five years that he has been a resident of McLean county he has witnessed changes in the political, social and material world such as never could have been conceived by mortal man. He has always been a true and loyal citizen, one ready to do his part in everything that would be beneficial to his adopted county and state, and all who have the pleasure of his acquaintance have for him unbounded respect.

**M**RS. DELLA H. RIGBY, C. S. B. The subject of this sketch was born in Bloomington, Illinois, September, 1858. Her father was of Scotch descent, and her mother's ancestors were Virginians. Her father failing in business while she was yet in her 'teens, and being of an energetic, independent nature, she determined to fit herself for a teacher. For this calling she showed marked aptitude at an early age. Her favorite role when playing with other children was that of a teacher, and she was never happier than when imparting to others something she had learned. She graduated in the ward schools at an early age,

and to better fit herself for her chosen calling, she attended the Normal University, and afterward a Business College. The following letter from Miss Sarah E. Raymond, then city superintendant of public schools, shows her standing as a teacher:

"This is to certify that Mrs. Della H. Rigby was a highly valued teacher in the public schools of this city for ten years. She had a high appreciation of her profession, was successful both in discipline and instruction, and was loyal to all the highest interests of the school, considering the individual interests and peculiarities of her pupils. Her sunny disposition won for her the universal regard of her pupils and associates. All her conduct was regulated by the highest Christian principles.

SARAH E. RAYMOND,

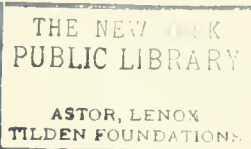
Superintendent of Public Schools."

She was a member of the First Methodist church, and a valued worker in all its various activities, receiving the appointment of conference organizer for the Home Missionary Society from its leading members. Later she identified herself with the Woman's Christian Temperance Union work of this city, presiding over its suffrage department, for which she worked enthusiastically, keenly feeling the injustice of state laws towards women and hoping to do her part towards righting them. While there is nothing morbid or pessimistic in Mrs. Rigby's make-up, she has unusual intuitional and spiritual qualities of character and is of a deeply religious nature. These qualities led her to look beyond the letter of the Scriptures and study the deeper meanings of the inspired word. Always delicate and frail of physique, and having sought healing of various physicians without avail, she asked for the prayers of her pastor and his





MRS. DELLA H. RIGBY.



estimable wife, as well as some of the more spiritually inclined of her co-workers in the church. These, too, failed to bring her the much desired boon. It was then that her attention was called to Christian Science as the cure-all for human ills. She tested its merits and realized physical healing. Her chronic as well as acute ailments vanished as vapor before the morning sun. She found, too, that this scientific Christianity uplifted one morally and spiritually, and with "Science and Health," by Mary Baker Eddy, the discoverer and founder of Christian Science, Mrs. Rigby at once began healing, and her success was phenomenal. Being dissatisfied with an inadequate knowledge of this wonderful curative art, she went to Chicago to take a primary course of Mrs. Caroline B. Noyes, one of Mrs. Eddy's oldest students, and on her return devoted all her time and energies to the study and practice of Christian Science.

A few years later she was admitted to the Massachusetts Metaphysical College, its president being the Rev. Mary B. G. Eddy, taking the normal course and fitting herself for the teaching of Christian Science. She has ever since been the recognized leader of the work in Bloomington. Through her efforts a church has been organized under the laws of the state, she being its first and only pastor.

The order of exercises has now been changed to the reading of the Scriptures and correlative passages from "Science and Health, with Key to the Scriptures," by Mary Baker G. Eddy. Mrs. Rigby is first reader in this church, situated on the corner of Monroe and Prairie streets, which building is owned by the Christian Scientists.

Mrs. Rigby has for many years been president of the Bloomington Christian

Science Institute, with a large following of students whom she has fitted for the work of healing the sick, and casting out sin in self and others, thus practically carrying out the commands of the great Teacher, who "spake as never man spake," emphatically asking his disciples "to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you," chief among these commands was, "heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead cast out devils."

Mrs. Rigby, as all of her cult, firmly believe that this command is as binding on the followers of Christ now as nineteen hundred years ago. Few realize what spiritual strength and stamina of character is required to carry on a pioneer work, against the prejudices and opposition of a community. With a few faithful workers, who began their first Christian Science meetings in her parlor, the work has steadily increased until its adherents fill the church.

Mrs. Rigby was married to Amos W. Rigby, June, 1882. Her husband is a fine business man, respected by all who know him, for his sterling uprightness of character, being also a firm believer in the faith. They have no children. This enables Mrs. Rigby to devote all her time to her beloved Christian Science work. Her wise counsel and help is much sought after by those who are heavy laden, and one seldom finds her alone at her home 207 East Jefferson street.

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J E. OTTO, a progressive, energetic and successful farmer residing on section 10, Dry Grove township, is a native of McLean county, born February 17, 1858, in Allin township, and is a son of D. J. Otto. During his childhood he removed with the family to Champaign county, Illinois, where

he attended the public schools for six years, and after their return to this county was a student in Evergreen Business College, of Bloomington, for a time. On the completion of his education he returned to the home farm in Dry Grove township and assisted in its operation until about twenty-five years of age.

On the 14th of February, 1883, Mr. Otto was united in marriage with Miss Mary E. Bohrer, who was born August 8, 1857, a daughter of F. C. Bohrer, of Bloomington, of whom more extended mention is made in the sketch of J. A. Bohrer, on another page of this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Otto have become the parents of five children, namely: Gertie B., born November 19, 1883; Lillie L., born October 20, 1884; Hattie I., born November 24, 1885; Ida May, who died in infancy; Elsie P., born October 30, 1888. They are all attending the local schools.

On the 1st of March, 1883, soon after his marriage, Mr. Otto located upon his present farm, which he rented from his father for seven years, and in 1890 purchased it. This place comprises one hundred and sixty acres of rich and arable land, which he has placed under a high state of cultivation, and he also owns another tract of eighty acres on section 15, the same township, which he purchased in March, 1896, of Isaac Livingston, of Bloomington. He has remodeled the residence upon his home farm, erected a fine barn and good outbuildings, and made many other useful and valuable improvements on the place, so that it is now one of the most pleasant country homes of the locality. He has greatly improved the productiveness of his land by laying thirty-five hundred rods of tiling on his farm, and has a good system of waterworks, with a one hundred and fifty barrel cypress tank in his

barn, and six hydrants. His specialty is stock-raising, and he has never sold a bushel of corn since he commenced farming, but has fed it all to his stock, shipping on an average of three carloads of cattle and two of hogs annually. He raises horses only for his own use. He is a good business man of pronounced ability, is wide-awake and energetic, and is meeting with well-deserved success in his chosen occupation. He is also a stockholder in the Home Telephone Company, and has a line connecting his house with Bloomington. Politically he is an ardent Republican, and with his wife and their two oldest children holds membership in the Congregational church at Danvers.

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W L. HORN, M. D., a popular and successful physician and surgeon of Arrowsmith, Illinois, is a native of McLean county, his birth having occurred in Mt. Hope township, November 5, 1860. His parents were Valentine and Catherine (Taylor) Horn, both natives of Ohio, the former born in Madison county, June 14, 1830, the latter in Ross county, April 13, 1837. The maternal grandfather of our subject, Alexander Taylor, was a farmer of Ohio in early life, and later lived for some time with his daughter, Mrs. Horn, in Nebraska, but finally returned to Ohio, where his death occurred. She was the second in order of birth in his family of five children. Our subject's paternal grandparents were John M. and Margaret Horn, natives of Virginia, and the former a son of a Revolutionary soldier. John Horn followed the occupation of farming both in Virginia and Ohio, and died in the Old Dominion, but the death of his wife occurred at the home of a daughter in Illinois. To



them were born five children, of whom Valentine is the fifth in order of birth. He grew to manhood in Ohio and there followed farming until December, 1859, when he came to Illinois and located in Mt. Hope township, McLean county, making his home there until March, 1883, since which time he and his wife have lived in Hamilton county, Nebraska. To them were born ten children, of whom eight reached man and womanhood, namely: James, a farmer of Mt. Hope township; Willis, a farmer of Logan county, Illinois; Elizabeth, who married D. C. Price, of Phillips, Nebraska, and died at the age of twenty-nine years; Wallace L., our subject; John W., a farmer of Frankfort, Ohio; Maggie, wife of Dr. E. H. Ball, of Tama City, Iowa; Lewis T., who was drowned in the Platte river in Nebraska, July 22, 1883, at the age of fourteen years, four months and twelve days; George, who is living with his parents in Nebraska; Della, wife of Harry J. Peard; and Ira B., residing with his parents.

Dr. Horn received his primary education in the public schools of McLean, and for a year and a half he was a student at Wesleyan College, Bloomington. Subsequently he engaged in farming in Mt. Hope township for a few years. For one year he studied medicine with Dr. C. M. Noble, of McLean, and in 1891 entered Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, from which he was graduated May 15, 1894. Immediately afterward he opened an office in Arrowsmith, this county, and was not long in building up the large and lucrative practice which he still enjoys. His skill and ability in his chosen profession are widely recognized, and he has met with most excellent success.

On the 13th of March, 1884, Dr. Horn

wedded Miss Mary F. Brock, who was born in this state October 3, 1866, a daughter of William Brock, a retired farmer of Mt. Hope township. She is the youngest in a family of five children. Two children were born to our subject and his wife, but both died in infancy.

The Doctor is a member of the McLean County Medical Society, also of Arrowsmith Lodge, No. 737, F. & A. M., Orange Chapter No. 288, Eastern Star, to which his wife also belongs, and Arrowsmith Camp, No. 2343, M. W. A. Politically he is a Republican and religiously both he and his wife belong to the Methodist Episcopal church.

SILAS HUBBARD, M. D., of Hudson, Illinois, traces his ancestry back to George Hubbard, born in 1595, who came from England and settled in the New England states in 1633. He was the father of George Hubbard, Jr., born in 1620, and the latter's son, Daniel Hubbard, was born in 1645. He had a son, Daniel, born in 1673, who also had a son Daniel, born in 1701. The fourth of that name was born in 1729. He married Eunice Clark, and they were the parents of Solomon Hubbard, Sr., the father of the subject of this sketch, the latter being born near Mayville, Chatauqua county, New York, May 9, 1821. He was the youngest of eleven children, of whom but one brother, Solomon, is yet living, besides himself. Solomon Hubbard, Jr., was born in Durham, Green county, New York, October 22, 1817.

Silas Hubbard, M. D., was reared on a farm until he was ten years old, when he removed with his mother to Buffalo, New York, his father having died when he was but two years old. When he was thirteen

years old, his mother died of cholera, and his care devolved on his oldest brother, Elias, who was twenty-three years his senior. He attended the Lima, New York, Seminary two years, and Allegheny College, Meadville, Pennsylvania, one year, until he was eighteen years of age, when he began the study of medicine and surgery with Dr. William Butler, in Lima, New York. In the spring of 1840 he attended a course of medical lectures in the Castleton, Vermont, Medical College, and in the fall of the same year he removed to Buffalo, New York, and continued his studies with Noah Warner, M. D. In the fall of 1842 he attended another course of lectures at Castleton, Vermont, and received his diploma, being then but twenty-one years old. He immediately began the practice of medicine in all its branches in Buffalo, New York, and in the summer and fall of 1843, having become an adept in the knowledge and practice of phrenology, he lectured four months on the science through Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky. He was the first to publish his discovery and description of consciousness in the Buffalo Commercial Advertiser and Journal, March 16, 1843. He was the first to discover and define the organ of conjugal love, in the Buffalo Daily Gazette, January 17, 1845.

With the exception of the four months lecturing on phrenology, Dr. Hubbard continued in the practice of medicine in all its branches in Buffalo for thirteen years, or until he was thirty-four years old, having during the meantime, when he was twenty-eight years of age, married Miss Frances J. Read September 27, 1849. She was born in New York city November 16, 1829. By this union eight children were born, as follows: Charles Silas, born July 21, 1850, in

Buffalo, New York, died in Hudson, Illinois, February 29, 1860. Hannah Frances, born June 10, 1853, married John D. Larkin May 10, 1874, in Hudson, Illinois. Mr. Larkin owns and manages a large factory on Larkin street, Buffalo, New York. They have an interesting family of five children, three sons and two daughters. Their oldest daughter married Harold Esta in Buffalo, New York, in June, 1899. Elbert Green Hubbard was born June 19, 1856, in Bloomington, Illinois. He is married and has three sons and one daughter. He has been honored in literature and art, and from a Chicago paper bearing date June 24, 1899, the following extract is taken: "The trustees of Tuft's College have conferred on Elbert Hubbard, proprietor of the Roycroft shop at East Aurora, New York, the degree of master of arts in recognition of his achievements in literature and in the line of artistic bookmaking. Mr. Hubbard is being congratulated by the American immortelles, who hail the editor of the Philistine as the William Morris of America." William and Edward Hubbard were twins, born December 5, 1858. Edward died December 6 and William died December 9, 1858. Daisy Anna Mirenda Hubbard, born December 10, 1860, in Hudson, Illinois, is well known, especially among the Women's Christian Temperance Union women of the nation. She led the noonday prayer meeting in Chicago for one year, and has lectured much on temperance in different states. She married Rev. F. S. Pollitt, and now lives with her family in Harrodsburg, Kentucky. They have three sons and one daughter. Mary Elizabeth Hubbard was born April 15, 1864, in Hudson, Illinois. After teaching school a number of years, she married Willing R. Heath, who

is a lawyer, and has achieved success in Chicago and in Buffalo, New York, where they now reside at 170 Lancaster avenue. They have three sons and one daughter. Honor Amelia Hubbard, born November 26, 1868, in Hudson, Illinois, like her sisters, Daisy and Mary, graduated in the Normal University, at Normal, Illinois, and was valedictorian on that occasion. She taught school three years and married Louis B. Easton at Hudson, Illinois. Mr. Easton is now a teacher of chemistry in the high school at Austin, Illinois. They have two promising daughters.

In 1855 Dr. Hubbard moved with his family from Buffalo, New York, to Bloomington, Illinois, where he practiced medicine for three years, and in 1858 moved to Hudson, Illinois, where he has since engaged in practice, a period of forty-one years. He has been a frequent contributor to the leading medical journals of the day, and has published at least one hundred and fifty articles on various medical subjects, from 1850 to the present time. While in Buffalo, he was vice president of the Buffalo City Medical Society in 1852, and in that year was sent by that society as a delegate to the American Medical Association, which met in Richmond, Virginia. According to appointment, in 1850 he read an original article on the constitutions and temperaments, before the Erie County Medical Society, of which he was a member. For seven years prior to his leaving Buffalo, New York, Dr. Hubbard was a physician and the secretary of the Buffalo City Dispensary. After coming to Illinois he became a member of the McLean County Medical Society, and continued as such until he honorably resigned.

Dr. Hubbard is an active member of the

Baptist church of Hudson, and for a number of years was the teacher of the senior Bible class. He has been a Republican since the party was formed. He belongs to no secret society.

Dr. Hubbard's father and grandfather were farmers, and they and all their children were born in the eastern part of New York, with the exception of the Doctor. One of his father's brothers, Matthew Hubbard, died while serving in the Revolutionary army. They were all patriots. His mother was born on Long Island, and when twelve years old she witnessed a Revolutionary battle, in which her father was assisting. Her father was a native of England, a ship carpenter by trade, and was the owner of some ships.

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HOWARD OGG, a well-known farmer and stock-raiser, residing on section 12, Cheney's Grove township, about five miles northeast of Saybrook, has had a prosperous career since coming to McLean county in 1867. He was born in Madison county, Kentucky, February 14, 1840, and is the son of Jonathan Ogg, a native of Virginia, who went to Kentucky in childhood with his parents, who settled in Madison county, and there engaged in farming. In that county he grew to manhood and married Miss Sally McWilliams, a native of Kentucky, who died when Howard was a child. They were the parents of six children, Howard being the only son. Martha Jane died a single lady. Miranda is the widow of James Walkup, and resides on the old Ogg homestead in Kentucky. Leah married Ed. Jackson, of Madison county, Kentucky, a brother of H. L. Jackson, a sketch of whom appears in this work.



Tabitha is the widow of Stapp Galaway, and resides near the old home farm in Madison county, Kentucky.

On the home farm in Madison county, Kentucky, Howard Ogg spent his boyhood and youth, and was early learned to do his share in the farm work. He is wholly self-educated, having no educational advantages in his younger years. In 1867 he came to McLean county, joining some friends who were living in the county. On his arrival he secured employment on a farm in Funk's Grove township, where he worked by the month for one year. He then rented a farm in that township, which he cultivated for one season.

On the 20th of July, 1870, he married Miss Sarah Crusenberry, a native of McLean county, Illinois, and by this union there were nine children, seven of whom are now living. May is residing at home. Frank is married and is engaged in farming in Cheney's Grove township. William is also married and is engaged in farming in Ford county. Albert, Jennie, Lewis and Cordie are at home. Grover died when seven years old, and Johnnie died in infancy.

For six years after his marriage, Mr. Ogg engaged in farming rented land. In 1876 he came to Cheney's Grove township, purchased the place where he now resides, and which then contained but one hundred and sixty acres. The farm was fairly well improved, but in due time he erected a more substantial residence, put out some fruit and shade trees, which added materially to the looks and value of the place. Later he purchased one hundred acres adjoining his farm, and still later a farm of eighty acres in Ford county, Illinois, which was well improved.

While he commenced life in McLean

county without means, Mr. Ogg had the determination to succeed, without which success is impossible. He toiled early and late, and the result is shown in the two fine farms which he now owns and which are well stocked with a good variety of the best cattle and hogs. In the raising of stock he has met with good success, and now raises and ships a large number of cattle and hogs per year.

Mr. Ogg has been a stanch Democrat during his entire life, but he has never been one of the kind that sought public office, or a politician for the sake of the spoils. Fraternally, he is a Master Mason, holding membership in the lodge at Saybrook. He is a good and loyal citizen, one who will bear his part in any enterprise for the public good. All who know him have for him unbounded respect.

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JOHN STILES, residing on section 24, Cheney's Grove township, owns and operates a farm of eighty acres, and which lies within two and a half miles of Saybrook. He was born in Guernsey county, Ohio, December 12, 1833, and is the son of Stephen and Eliza (Linn) Styles, both of whom were natives of the same state, the former born in 1805. Stephen Stiles was a farmer by occupation, and in that line spent his entire life. His wife died about 1835, leaving two children—John, the subject of this sketch; and Fanny, who grew to womanhood, married, but is now deceased. After the death of his first wife, Stephen Stiles was again married, and by his second union had seven children, of whom two only are now living, George and Reuben, who reside in Guernsey county, Ohio. His



death occurred in 1886, at the age of eighty-one years.

In his native county, the subject of this sketch grew to manhood, and in the common schools received a limited education. In his youth he was afflicted with white swelling in one of his limbs, which rendered him a cripple for life. He was married in Guernsey county, Ohio, January 16, 1862, to Miss Isabella Stiles, daughter of Jacob Stiles, of Ohio. One daughter, Adaline, was born of this union. She married Albert Thompson, now deputy sheriff of McLean county, and they make their home in Saybrook. They have four children, Mabel, Lee, Charles and Susie.

After his marriage, Mr. Stiles rented a farm in Guernsey county, Ohio, and there engaged in farming for two years. In the summer of 1864 he removed to Grant county, Indiana, and there rented a farm, and in the season of 1865 raised a crop. Not being satisfied with the locality, and believing he could better himself in Illinois, in the spring of 1866 he came to McLean county, and located on the line dividing it from Livingston county. There he remained for sixteen years, and in the spring of 1882 he purchased the farm of eighty acres where he now resides. The place was fairly well improved, but there is no place so well improved but that it can be made better, and to that end Mr. Stiles made further improvements on the place by tiling the land, and the erection of a good dwelling and barn.

Politically Mr. Stiles is a life-long Republican, his first presidential vote being cast for the great "Pathfinder," John C. Fremont, in 1856. He has continued to vote the party ticket from that time to the present, and sees no good reason why he

should make a change. He has never asked for public office, consequently he feels to act independently and vote as his best judgment dictates. For thirty-three years—a third of a century—he has been a resident of this section, and he feels a just pride in the advancement that has been made, and has the satisfaction of knowing that in it all he has done his part as best he could. He is a good neighbor and friend, and has the respect and confidence of those with whom he has been associated for so long a period of time.

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JOHN M. STIPP, one of the gallant defenders of the Union during the civil war, and an honored citizen of Arrowsmith, Illinois, who is now living practically retired from business cares, was born in Parke county, Indiana, November 2, 1842, and was about nine years of age when brought to this county by his father, Henry Stipp. His mother, who bore the maiden name of Martha Meddley, was a native of Indiana, and died when our subject was about eighteen months old. The father was born in Ohio in 1809, and was a son of John Stipp, a farmer of Pickaway county, that state, who removed to Parke county, Indiana, when the son was a lad of fifteen years and there spent the remainder of his life. There Henry Stipp grew to manhood, and followed the occupation of farming until coming to McLean county, Illinois, in March, 1852. Prior to this he had made a trip to New Orleans on a flatboat, being interested in a trading venture. After coming to this county he first operated rented land in Dawson township, and in 1858 removed to Arrowsmith township, where he continued to make his home until his death

in 1871. By his first wife he had two children but one died in infancy, the other being our subject. His second union was with Cynthia Ann Meddley, a cousin of his former wife, and by her he had nine children, five sons and four daughters, eight of whom reached years of maturity. She is still living in Arrowsmith township at the age of seventy-five years.

John M. Stipp, of this review, is indebted principally to the public schools of McLean county for his educational advantages. When the south attempted to secede, he was one of the first to offer his services to the government to assist in suppressing the rebellion, enlisting April 15, 1861, at the age of seventeen years, in Company K., Eighth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, under command of Captain Harvey and Colonel Oglesby. He went at once to Springfield, Illinois, and from there to Cairo and on to Big Muddy Bridge. His three months' term of enlistment having expired, he was mustered out July 25, 1861, but he re-enlisted November 28, the same year, in Company A, First Illinois Cavalry, under Captain McNulty and Colonel Marshall. With that command he participated in a number of skirmishes. He was mustered out as corporal, July 14, 1862, and three days later again enlisted, this time as sergeant in Company F, Ninety-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. After a short time spent at Benton Barracks, the regiment went to Springfield, Missouri, where they remained until the 12th of November, fortifying the city and drilling. Later at Twin Springs the regiment was assigned to the Second Brigade, Third Division, Army of the Frontier, and with that department Mr. Stipp participated in the following notable engagements: Prairie

Grove, Arkansas, December 7, 1862; the raid to Van Buren, Arkansas, December 27, 1862; the siege of Vicksburg, Mississippi, from June 13 to July 4, 1863; the capture of Yazoo City, July 14, 1863; the skirmish at Ackafaloya, Louisiana, September 7, 1863; the capture of Brownsville, Texas, November 5, 1863; the siege and capture of Fort Morgan, Alabama, in August, 1864; the skirmish at Litie, Alabama, December 22, 1864; and the siege and capture of Spanish Fort, Alabama, in April, 1865. In these engagements Mr. Stipp served as color bearer, but was mustered out as second lieutenant, being promoted to that rank on account of his valor and meritorious service. He is also in possession of a complimentary letter from his colonel, who was afterward General McNulta. He was mustered out July 17, 1865, and finally discharged August 9, 1865, just three years to a day from his last enlistment.

On his return to civil life Mr. Stipp took up the vocation of a farmer and stock raiser, having during his military service saved enough to make a payment on eighty acres of land in Arrowsmith township. After residing thereon for two years he sold the place and removed to Lynn county, Kansas, but about eight months later he returned to McLean county, Illinois, and again took up his residence in Arrowsmith township, where he rented land for two years. He then bought an eighty-acre tract, to which he has added from time to time, until he now has two hundred acres in one body in Arrowsmith township, all under a high state of cultivation, and also five acres of timber land. While residing on his farm he gave considerable attention to stock raising and shipping to the Chicago market, and that branch of his business proved quite

profitable. On the 15th of November, 1897, he removed to the village of Arrowsmith, and has since lived retired, surrounded by all the comforts and many of the luxuries of life which have been secured by former years of toil.

On the 4th of March, 1866, Mr. Stipp was united in marriage with Miss Ellen L. Wirt, a native of Ohio, and a daughter of James and Margaret (Newman) Wirt, also natives of the Buckeye state. By occupation her father was a farmer and mason. Mrs. Stipp is the fourth in order of birth in a family of nine children. Of the six children born to our subject and wife, Margaret, the eldest, died in infancy; Minnie is at home; Florence is the wife of H. E. Bingham, of Bloomington, by whom she has two children, Warren W. and Dimple; Claiborne, who operates his father's farm on sections 19 and 20, Arrowsmith township, married Harriet Birgham, and has two children, May and Claiborne; John W. is with his brother on the farm; and Nellie lives with her parents in Arrowsmith. The wife and daughters are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and the family is one of social prominence in the community.

In his political views Mr. Stipp is a strong Republican, and he has ever taken a very active and prominent part in public affairs, having served as supervisor in Arrowsmith township for seven years; assessor two terms; collector one term, and school director for a number of years. Since his removal to the village he has also been a member of the board of education. He has proved a most capable and satisfactory official, and has ever been found willing to discharge all duties devolving upon him with the same promptness and fidelity with which

he responded to his country's call for aid during the dark days of the rebellion. Socially, he is a worthy member of Arrowsmith Lodge, No. 737, F. & A. M.; and Orange Chapter, No. 288, O. E. S., and was also a member of the Grand Army Post, No. 15, during its existence. He is a man honored, respected and esteemed wherever known and most of all where he is best known.

**D**ANIEL WEBSTER KRAFT, one of the young and enterprising farmers of Towanda township, is a native of the township, born on his father's farm, in section 3, November 29, 1863. He is a son of Timothy and Walberg (Hurley) Kraft, both of whom are natives of Germany. Timothy Kraft was born in Atteneau, Baden, Germany, July 2, 1832, and is a son of Joseph and Mary (Fordenbarck) Kraft, who were also natives of Germany, but who never left the fatherland. Joseph Kraft was a weaver by trade, and served six years in the German cavalry.

Timothy Kraft, the father of our subject, was the youngest of four children. He grew to manhood in his native land, and there learned the potter's trade. In 1854 he came to the United States, with a view of bettering his condition in life, and for five years was a resident of Montgomery county, Ohio, where he was married March 5, 1856, to Walburg Hurley, daughter of Cornelius and Noteburg (Schneider) Hurley, natives of Baden, Germany, where their daughter was born, November 28, 1835. In the fall of 1860 he came to McLean county and bought eighty acres of land on section 3, Towanda township, and there made his home until about 1887, when



he left the farm, moving to Bloomington, where he has since lived a retired life. He was a very successful farmer, and from the humble beginning in which he commenced in this county he added to his possessions until he was the owner of some six hundred acres of as fine land as one would wish to see. His family consisted of seven children, as follows: Sarah A., wife of H. Kee Hayes, of Bloomington township; Charles, of Towanda township; Daniel W., our subject; Cornelius, who resides on the old homestead; William T., of Towanda township; Frank, who died at the age of three years; and Lulu M., who resides with her parents in Bloomington.

The subject of this sketch spent his boyhood and youth on the home farm, and as soon as his age would permit, he was assigned his daily task in farm work, continuing to be thus employed until after he attained his majority. His primary education was obtained in the public schools of his township, and this was supplemented by a course in Wesleyan University, at Bloomington. After leaving school, he commenced life for himself by renting a portion of the home place, and engaging in general farming. On the 29th of February, 1888, he was united in marriage with Miss Clara Mickens, daughter of Asa and Martha (Johns) Mickens. She was third in their family of five children, the others being Sarah, wife of Frank Boling, of Normal, Illinois; Lizzie, wife of Jay C. Freeman, of Austin, Illinois; Ethel and Charles E., the latter now living in Mobile, Alabama. Mrs. Kraft was born in McLean county.

For three years after his marriage, Mr. Kraft resided on one of his father's farms, and in 1892 purchased what was known as the Lormier farm on section 3, Towanda

township, which consisted of one hundred and twenty-five acres. In 1896 he added forty acres to his farm, and now has a fine place of one hundred and sixty-five acres, all of which is under excellent improvement. He has followed general farming and stock-raising, and his success has equaled his expectations.

Three children came to bless the union of Mr. and Mrs. Kraft, one of whom, Harland, died in infancy. The living are Eva May and Helen M. In politics Mr. Kraft is a Republican, and religiously he is identified with the Methodist Episcopal church at Towanda. Fraternally he is a member of Success Lodge, No. 480, K. P., of Towanda. Socially he is well esteemed by his friends and neighbors, with whom he has spent his entire life. With the thrifty habits of the German race, he combines the push and energy of the American, and while yet young, he has been quite successful in life.

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THOMAS FOSTER TIPTON was born near Harrisburg, Franklin county, Ohio, about ten miles from Columbus, August 29, 1833. He is a descendant of the Tipton family, the parent stem of which located in Frederick county, Maryland, at a pre-revolutionary period and was composed of four brothers, Joshua and Sylvester Tipton; the names of the other two are unknown to the writer; they were of Scotch-Irish extraction and came originally from that sterling race of Highlanders whose representative was the famous John Knox of the Reformation. Sylvester Tipton, the grandfather of the subject of this sketch, removed from Maryland, about 1790, to what was then known as the Northwest territory, but subsequently became the state of Ohio,



settling temporarily in Chillicothe, Ross county, and later in what is now known as Franklin county. Here he followed the vocation of school teaching until he was nearly eighty years of age. He was a man of very limited means, but had a fair education, and, better than all else, possessed a good name. He was small in stature, but had a good constitution and lived to a ripe old age, dying at the age of ninety years.

Joshua Tipton, the other brother, also removed from Maryland to eastern Tennessee at the close of the Revolution, where, April 18, 1793, he was murdered by the Indians. The support of the family was thus thrown upon the only son, John, then seven years old, who at the same time became imbued with the idea of revenging his father's death. In 1807 the family moved to Brinley's Ferry, Harrison county, Indiana, and settled on a farm of fifty-five acres, paying for it by splitting rails. In 1809 he joined the "Yellow Jackets," a military organization commanded by Captain Spier Spencer, and soon after became ensign, serving through the campaign that followed which terminated in the battle of Tippecanoe, November 7, 1811. During this conflict he succeeded to the command of the company by the death of his captain, and later was elevated to the rank of brigadier-general of militia. During his life he was elected to the office of sheriff, representative in the legislature, United States Indian commissioner and United States senator, in many of which offices he served more than one term. He was also actively engaged in all public enterprises where the support of the community was essential to their progress, and took also a personal interest in the educational and philanthropic

organizations in the state. The city of Columbus was located upon his land, and for a time was called Tiptonia in honor of him.

Sylvester Tipton reared a family of eight children—four sons and four daughters. His wife was a woman of more than ordinary strength of character. Her maiden name was Mary Stark, a niece of General Stark of Revolutionary fame. She was tall and dignified in appearance, and being unusually intelligent, occupied a conspicuous place in the communities where she resided. The sons were Captain Thomas, Jonathan, John and Hiram.

Of the immediate family Jonathan removed to Knox county, Illinois, in 1840, and in 1851 moved to Washington county, Iowa, where his descendants still live and where his son Basil has represented his district in the legislature. Thomas secured an education and grew to manhood in his home vicinity, and during the war of 1812 became a captain, in which he served with distinction. He died September 13, 1864, at Pleasant Ridge Farm, leaving an estate of one thousand acres, near Harrisburg, Ohio. John, the third brother, moved to Fulton county, Illinois, in 1841, where he lived until 1866, when he was accidentally killed by a tree falling upon him. The family later resided in Peoria.

Hiram Tipton, the youngest son, and who was the father of the subject of this sketch, was born in Franklin county, Ohio, in 1802 and devoted his life to agricultural pursuits. In 1827 he was united in marriage to Deborah Ogden, daughter of Albert Ogden, of Fayette county, Ohio. In 1837 he removed to Pickaway county, Ohio, and in the fall of 1844 to McLean county, Illinois, and settled in what is now Money

Creek township, where the family resided several years after the father's death on March 20th, the year following their arrival, leaving his widow and three small children: Thomas F., subject of this sketch; John residing in Saybrook, and Jane, the widow of William S. Tuttle, also of Saybrook.

The subject of this sketch began life in an humble cottage constructed of poles and thatched with buck-wheat straw. He began his individual efforts in life at the early age of twelve years, living with his uncle, John Ogden, and devoting his time during the summer months to work on the farm, while in the winter he was enabled to attend the district schools. Farm life was not congenial to young Tipton and whatever was done was not a labor of love. Reading books was more to his taste than plowing corn. At the age of sixteen he entered the school at Lexington under the tutorage of Col. Wm. N. Calor, where he remained until he was eighteen, when he entered the office of Dr. Lindley and began the study of medicine. At the end of a month he concluded that the study of medicine would be distasteful and he made ready to prepare himself for the study of that profession which his ambition had lead him to adopt for a life vocation. With some assistance from his guardian, James Vandolah, he purchased Blackstone and Kent's Commentaries, and began the study of law. Later he taught school for a year, and read law in the office of H. N. Keightley, a prominent attorney of Knoxville, Illinois, and was admitted to the practice of law, June 6, 1854, being then in his twenty-first year. He opened an office in Lexington at once, and entered vigorously upon the practice of his profession, retaining his residence in Lexington for seven years, and gaining no

little prestige by reason of his ability and determined efforts. In January, 1862, he removed to Bloomington, where a few months later he became associated with Judge R. M. Benjamin, one of the framers of the constitution of 1870. In 1868 Hon. Lawrence Weldon, who afterward became one of the judges of the United States court of claims, was admitted to membership in the firm, which gained recognition as one of the ablest legal associations in central Illinois.

In 1866 Mr. Tipton was appointed by Governor Oglesby states attorney of the 8th judicial district, which he held for a term of two years. In 1870 he was elected judge of the circuit court (8th circuit), which he held until 1877, being re-elected to a second term in 1873. In 1876 he was elected to represent his district in the forty-fifth congress. His services in the halls of congress were characterized by that sterling wisdom he had shown so perfectly in his professional career, and was of that discriminating and faithful order which not only gained to him the endorsement of his constituents, but which gained also the recognition as an honest representative and a true statesman.

After his return from congress Judge Tipton became again actively engaged in the practice of law, until 1891, when he was elected circuit judge, for which he was so eminently qualified, both by natural ability and long experience in judicial functions and in which he continued until 1897, since which time he has been constantly in the practice of his profession, the firm being now Tipton & Tipton through the admission of his son, Thomas W., to a junior partnership.

To Judge and Mrs. Tipton seven children have been born, two of which number died in infancy. Harry V., died March 31,

1887, at the age of twenty-seven years; Belle E. is the wife of E. E. Van Schoick, of Hastings, Nebraska; Helen F. is the wife of William R. Bair, of Bloomington, Illinois; Thomas W., who married Miss Alice Searles, a daughter of Dr. Searles, of Omaha, Nebraska, and who now lives at Normal, Illinois; and Laura B., at home.

Judge Tipton as circuit judge was called upon to decide many intricate questions growing out of the construction of the constitution of 1870, which made many changes in the constitution of 1848. The case of the People *et. al* v. The Chicago & Alton Railroad Company, the purpose of which suit was to determine whether or not the legislature had power under the constitution to regulate and control the rate of charges for freight and passenger on railways. This opinion, which was of great length, discussing the entire law on that subject, was published at the time throughout the press of the state and elsewhere and was published by the Illinois Railway and Warehouse Commissioners in the second volume of their reports and has ever been regarded as the law embodying that subject and it was afterward sustained in principle by our own supreme court and the supreme court of the United States in the Granger cases.

Judge Tipton has had an extensive practice in central Illinois and is well known throughout the state having held court and practiced law throughout central Illinois. He has tried either as circuit judge or as counsel forty-seven murder cases and many other important cases. Persons familiar with the Illinois Reports are necessarily familiar with the name of Judge Tipton, as he appears as counsel or as the circuit judge who tried the cause in perhaps more cases than any other practitioner in the state.

WILLIAM WILEY, deceased, was for many years a well-known farmer and stock raiser in Martin township. He was born in Garrett county, Kentucky, August 24, 1813, and when a small boy removed with his parents to Switzerland county, Indiana, where he was reared and received his education in the schools of that early day. He was reared on a farm, and chose farming as his life work. When he attained the age of twenty-one years he left Indiana and came to McLean county, Illinois, locating in Martin township, where he purchased four hundred acres of land west of where the city of Colfax is now located, two hundred and forty acres of his purchase, however, lying in Lawndale township. Upon that part which was in Martin township he took up his abode in a log cabin.

For seven years he resided alone in that little cabin, but on the 30th of September, 1841, he was united in marriage with Miss Nancy S. Hopkins, a native of Indiana, born in 1823. By this union there are seven living children, five sons and two daughters, namely: John S., Robert M., Joseph S., William R., James S., Amelia and Nancy. Of these John S. was a soldier in the civil war, being a member of Company K, Eighth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He was honorably discharged at the close of the war in 1865. Robert M. was also a soldier in Company K, Eighth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and died while in the service of his country, April 2, 1864. Joseph S. served in the same company and regiment until the close of the war. After his return from the army John S. married Miss Missouri Arnold, and to them were born three children, Lillian W., Arnold and Nancy E. John S. Wiley died June 10, 1874. Joseph S. married Miss Melissa Henline, of Lawndale



township, and they have six children, five sons and one daughter, Lovetta, Robert, Everett, Virgil, Mercer and Ray. They reside in Nebraska. Rev. William R. is presiding elder of the Normal district of the Methodist Episcopal church. He married Gertrude Green, and they have seven children, Hamilton E., W. Earl, Robert H., Lillian, Elizabeth, Mildred and Ruth. They reside in Normal. James S. is a resident of Decatur, Illinois, where he is engaged in the grain business. He married Miss Hattie Dennis, and they have three children, Charles, Madge and Clara. Amelia married Stephen Smith, and they have nine children, Pearl, Homer, Orville, John, Mark, Stephen, Elizabeth, William and George N. They are now residing in Nebraska. Lizzie married Lemuel Finchan, and they have five children, Lawrence W., James F., Lemuel C., John R. and Gertrude M. They reside in Martin township.

In April, 1891, Mr. Wiley was called to his reward, and his death was a sad blow to the community in which he had so long resided, and of which he was an honored pioneer. He was a good man, and no man in the community had more friends. In the early days he was enabled to render timely assistance to many whose means were limited and these all hold him in grateful remembrance. His widow is yet living, and is an honored member of the Methodist Episcopal church in Colfax.

Robert Hopkins, the father of Mrs. Wiley, was born in Delaware in 1799, from which state his parents moved to Kentucky when he was a small boy. In the latter state he received his education and grew to manhood. He married Miss Millie Bartholomew, and to them were born seven children: Nancy S., Mary, Sarah, Angelia,

Joseph, John, Robert and Henry. Both parents died in 1859, the wife four days later than her husband.

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**H**ENRY B. JOHNSON, a well known and successful painter of Chenoa, Illinois, was born in Germany, June 21, 1861, a son of John H. and Tracey Johnson, also natives of Germany, who emigrated with their family to America in 1867, and located in St. Louis, Missouri, where the father died six months after his arrival. The family continued to reside in that city for a year and a half and then removed to Peoria, Illinois, where the mother had friends living. There they made their home for a few years.

Our subject is the youngest child in the family of five children, all of whom are still living, and he was only six years old when brought to this country by his parents. He remained a resident of Peoria until eleven years of age and then came to Chenoa, where he now resides, his education being obtained in the public schools of both places. Later he spent two years, 1881 and 1882, in Peoria learning the painter's trade, and when he had thoroughly mastered the business returned to Chenoa, where he resided uninterruptedly for eight years. Returning to Peoria in 1888, he conducted a livery stable there for about eighteen months and later turned his attention to other pursuits, remaining there for four years. The following two years he spent upon a farm and then again took up his residence in Chenoa, where he has since worked at his trade.

On the 17th of September, 1890, Mr. Johnson was united in marriage with Miss Mary C. Ringel, who was born in Peoria



county, Illinois, May 2, 1860, a daughter of Henry and Caroline Ringel. Three children were born of this union: Pearl M., and Bland B. and Blanch B., twins, now deceased. The family have a pleasant home in Chenoa, purchased by Mr. Johnson in 1897. He and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, and politically he is identified with the Republican party.

**STEPHEN M. SMITH**, of Anchor township, was born near Morgantown, Monongalia county, West Virginia, October 13, 1848, and is the son of James Wat and Elizabeth A. Smith, who are still living on the old homestead of two hundred acres in Monongalia county. They are both natives of West Virginia, the former born in Marion county in 1815, and the latter in Monongalia county in 1827. They are of Irish and Welsh descent, and were married in 1845, and went to housekeeping on the same farm which they now occupy. They were never out of their native state, and are the parents of nine children: Elza E., born November 18, 1846, unmarried, and still under the parental roof; Stephen M., the subject of this sketch; Rachel Y., born August 4, 1850, married Joseph Smith, and is yet living in West Virginia; Edgar C., born May 7, 1852, now living in Sedgwick county, Kansas; Susanna W., born January 4, 1857, died in infancy; W. W., born May 14, 1864; James M., born August 7, 1861, at home; Thomas J., born August 7, 1866; Elizabeth M., born July 17, 1870.

The subject of this sketch received his education under very different circumstances and conditions from those that exist at the present time. Then there were no free

schools in West Virginia, or Virginia, as it was not then separated, and but a limited number of subscription schools were taught. The school house at Laurel Point, where he attended school, was built of logs, with one log left out for a window, holes were bored in the log directly under the opening, wooden pins were driven in and a long plank laid on the pins. A writing desk was thus constructed that would accommodate from fifteen to twenty students. The benches were made of slabs, twelve, fourteen or sixteen feet long, in which holes were bored and four wooden legs driven in, the bench being then ready for use. The teacher, books, and apparatus generally were just as primitive as the school houses. For the benefit of the boys and girls of today, Mr. Smith would explain that a slab is the first cut from the logs. In taking logs to the mill, the first thing the sawyer does is to take off four slabs to make the log square. A slab is thick in the middle and runs out to a thin edge, and often the bark is left on. These are some of the disadvantages under which he received his education. However, he was enabled to attend two winter terms of three months each in the free schools, one term in West Virginia, and three months in Woodford county, Illinois, when he attended the school of Miss Anna Harney. In 1866, when the free school system was adopted in West Virginia, there was not a young man or young woman in the neighborhood who was reared capable of passing a teacher's examination, and the first teachers in the neighborhood came from Pennsylvania. In speaking of his career from this point in his life, Mr. Smith says:

"I lived at home and assisted my father on the farm until I was twenty years of

age. I then looked around for an opening for myself. Not finding what seemed to me an opportunity to do anything that would be remunerative, I concluded to go west. In company with three other young men of about my own age, I started out to seek my fortune. With our satchels on our backs, and very little money in our pockets, (I had eleven dollars) we started down the old Monongalia river for Geneva, at which place we arrived that night, wet, tired and hungry, about eleven P. M., after our journey of twelve miles on foot. The next morning we took the boat for Pittsburg, but soon found that I did not have money enough to pay for my ticket. I borrowed ten dollars of one of my companions, and at Pittsburg, we took the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne & Chicago Railroad for Cruger, Woodford county, Illinois. This was in March, 1868. On our arrival we found nothing but mud and water six inches deep. Two of my companions could not stand the prospects and at once returned to their old home. My other friend, William Hare, and I started for Low Point, which was located about ten miles north of Cruger, where I found employment with J. E. Dodds. In the fall of 1868 I worked on Saturdays and did chores for Abner Bailey and went to school three months to Miss Anna Harney. In March, 1869, I engaged with Ex-Representative J. A. Ranney for one year for three hundred dollars per year. Mr. Ranney and his wife took a great deal of pains to make their home pleasant for me, and it is to them that I owe much for counsel, advice and example, and was enabled to save up seven hundred dollars."

On the 24th of December, 1871, Mr. Smith was united in marriage with Miss Margaret J. Mundell, daughter of Abner

and Mariah Mundell, early settlers of Woodford county, Illinois, from Ohio. After their marriage, Mr. Smith rented land of his father-in-law for seven years, after which he took a trip through Nebraska and Kansas, but not liking the country, he returned and located on his present farm of four hundred and eighty acres in McLean county. The home quarter he bought in 1878, for thirty dollars per acre. It was poorly improved, but with the characteristic energy that he has always displayed, he went to work in its further improvement. He next bought one hundred and sixty acres adjoining the home place, but lying in Cropsey township, for which he paid sixty dollars per acre, and in March, 1893, he bought one hundred and sixty acres adjoining the home place on the south for which he paid eighty dollars per acre. All his land is tilled and well improved, and it is all kept under cultivation, having now the assistance of his sons. They engage somewhat extensively in stock raising, in connection with grain, and keep a standard grade of cattle.

To Mr. and Mrs. Smith nine children were born. Charles A., born December 6, 1872, was married in Peoria, but resides near Anchor, Illinois. James A., born September 13, 1874, married Nora Hagar, and with their son, Lawrence H., they live on the home place. Maud M., born February 14, 1877, is engaged in teaching. Estella E., born November 6, 1879, married Ira Hinshaw, and they reside in Cropsey township. Damal W., born March 16, 1882, died in infancy. Jesse S., born June 18, 1883; Samuel G., July 16, 1885; Ralph R., September 27, 1888; Mark E., September 26, 1891; and Edgar D., November 22, 1893; are all at home. The faithful wife and mother departed this life March 5,

1895. For fifteen years she was a member of the Christian church, as was also her husband. In politics, Mr. Smith says he is a Democrat, but is willing to listen to reason in all things. He has held several township offices, the duties of which he always endeavored to discharge in a faithful and conscientious manner.

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JOHN GAREE, who has been an honored resident of McLean county since the fall of 1851, now owns and successfully operates a fine farm of eighty acres on section 5, Empire township, four miles south of Le Roy. He was born in Licking county, Ohio, July 3, 1834, and is a son of Roland Garee, a native of one of the southern states, who with his brother John went to Ohio at an early day, becoming one of the pioneers of Licking county. There he married Hester Van Sever, a native of Franklin county, Ohio. In Licking county he cleared and opened up a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, but after residing thereon for ten or twelve years he sold that place and purchased six hundred and twenty acres farther north, to the improvement and cultivation of which he at once turned his attention. There he died about 1845, leaving his widow with four small children, two sons and two daughters, of whom our subject was the oldest. He assisted his mother on the farm, which when purchased was a wild tract and aided her in caring for the younger children.

There Mr. Garee remained until he was married in Franklin county, in June, 1851, to Miss Louisa Pray, daughter of Daniel Pray. In the fall of the same year, he and his bride, together with his father-in-law and two other families came to Illinois by team

and took up their residence in Empire township, McLean county. At two different times he had previously come to the county on prospecting tours. After locating here he rented a farm for several years, but in 1861 went to Missouri with the intention of making that state his future home. He rented a farm in Linn county, but not being pleased with the locality he returned to McLean county, Illinois, in the fall of the same year. For several years thereafter he rented the Robert Barr farm and then purchased eighty acres on section 5, Empire township, where he now resides. He has made many improvements upon the place, including the erection of a neat and substantial residence in the spring of 1879, and is now successfully engaged in general farming and stock-raising.

Mr. Garee's first wife died in 1890. Nine children were born to them, namely: Melissa, who died in 1898; Mary, deceased wife of Andrew Wells; Hester, deceased wife of William Champ; and Lilly, deceased wife of Lee Walters; Martha, wife of John Smith, a farmer of Empire township; Josie, wife of Barton Seveth, of the same township; Elmer, also a farmer of Empire township; and Belle, wife of Frank Russell, of Clay county, Arkansas. Mr. Garee was again married, in Bloomington, in July, 1898, his second union being with Mrs. Mary Collins, who was born in Kentucky, but was principally reared in Empire township, McLean county, Illinois. Her father, Joseph Gilmore, was a native of the same state, and came to this county in 1860, locating in Empire township where he died three years later. His wife died in 1862. Mrs. Garee first married Americus Collins, who followed farming near Le Roy until his death, which occurred in March, 1883. By



that union she had three children, but two died in infancy. The only one now living is Amanda, wife of Ernest Silvers, of Empire township.

Since casting his first presidential vote for Stephen A. Douglas, in 1860, Mr. Garee has been a supporter of the Democratic party, and for a number of years he has been an efficient member of the school board. He has taken an active part in the development and upbuilding of the county in the last half century, and is numbered among its honored pioneers and highly respected citizens. His estimable wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Le Roy.

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CHARLES W. DOOLEY, a prominent wholesale and retail dealer in agricultural implements at Bloomington, is a native of McLean county, born eight miles southeast of the city, January 8, 1867, and is a son of James M. and Susan J. (Nelson) Dooley, natives of Clark county, Kentucky, where their marriage was celebrated. Shortly after that event they came to McLean county, Illinois, but after spending one year here they went to Putnam county, Indiana, where they made their home for ten years. Returning to this county, the father purchased the old home farm in Old Town township, on which he resided for twenty years. He was prominently identified with that locality as one of the leading farmers and stock raisers, and served as supervisor of the township for a number of years. In his political affiliations he was always a Democrat. Finally disposing of his farming interests in 1883, he removed to Bloomington, where for a year or two he lived retired. In 1886 he was elected president of

the Third National Bank, of which he had previously been a director, and held that position up to the time of his death, giving his entire time and attention to the duties of the position. He was also one of the incorporators and stockholders of the Manufactured Ice Company of Bloomington, and was a most progressive and successful business man. He died January 14, 1894. His wife is still living on the old home on Washington street. In their family were eleven children, all of whom are still living and are now grown, namely: Mrs. Florence Singleton, a resident of Indiana; W. L., of Mississippi; R. W., of this county; Mrs. Anna Brown, of Indiana; Henry S. and Samuel C., both attorneys of Bloomington; Charles W., our subject; Emma, wife of A. E. Ayers, who is a partner of our subject in business; Robert D., who is connected with the Third National Bank of Bloomington; and Edna and Bennie, both at home. The family attend and support the Christian church, of which the mother is a consistent member. Our subject's paternal grandfather, William Dooley, was born in Clark county, Kentucky, and continued to make his home there until past middle life, when he came with the father of our subject to this county and became identified with the early interests of this locality as a farmer and stock raiser. Here his death occurred. Our subject's maternal grandfather, William Nelson spent his entire life in Clark county, Kentucky, engaged in agricultural pursuits.

The first sixteen years of his life Charles W. Dooley spent upon the home farm, attending the country schools. He then came with the family to Bloomington, where he became a student in the high school and later in the Wesleyan University. After teaching school for a time he took up the



study of law with his brother, Henry S., and two years later was admitted to the bar by examination at Springfield, in May, 1890. Going to Saybrook, he purchased a farm and carried that on for two years, but in 1892 returned to Bloomington and was engaged in the practice of law with his brother for a year. In the spring of 1893 he removed to Kankakee, Illinois, where he was interested in the hardware business for a year. In the spring of 1894 he embarked in the wholesale and retail implement and vehicle business at Bloomington, representing several leading manufacturers. He formed a partnership in this business with his brother-in-law, Mr. Ayers, who represents the house on the road, together with two other traveling salesmen, and they also have many other agencies. They have built up a large and constantly increasing trade, and as wholesale dealers have met with most excellent success. Politically Mr. Dooley is a Democrat and a supporter of the gold standard.

He married Miss Sarah J. Burke, daughter of Samuel Burke, who died several years ago, but her mother is still living in Bloomington. They now have three children: Reed R., Wallace K., and Margaret. The family have a beautiful home on East Jefferson street, Bloomington, and they attend and support the Baptist church.

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CYRENUS RUSSELL, a leading fresco and mural painter of Bloomington, was born in Marshall, Illinois, December 12, 1862, a son of Emer and Martha A. (Rogers) Russell. The father was born in Troy, New York, in 1832, and when a lad of fifteen years came to this State with his parents, Abner and Mary Russell, represent-

atives of old families of Troy. They settled near Peoria in 1847, and there the grandfather engaged in farming during the remainder of his active life. The father was educated in the schools of Troy and Peoria, and on starting out in life for himself he engaged in farming on his father's place. In Peoria county he married Miss Martna A. Rogers, a native of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, where her father, William Rogers, spent his entire life. Soon after his marriage Emer Russell removed to Chenoa, McLean county, where, as the pioneer furniture dealer, he successfully engaged in business until 1876, when he took up his residence in Bloomington. There he is still living, and has now laid aside business cares, enjoying a well earned rest. He is an earnest member of the Christian church, to which his wife, who died March 17, 1892, also belonged.

Cyrenus Russell, of this review, began his education in the public schools of Chenoa, and later was a student in the high school of Bloomington. During his youth he learned the painter's trade, serving a four years' apprenticeship with Barley Plumb and Kirk Buffum, and then went to Chicago to learn frescoing with one of the leading firms of that city, with whom he remained for seven years. Thus thoroughly prepared for his chosen calling, Mr. Russell returned to Bloomington and was in the employ of Kirk Buffum until that gentleman's death, after which George Buffum and our subject purchased the business, which they conducted under the firm name of Buffum & Russell for two years. Our subject then sold his interest and started in business alone in 1897, at No. 163 East Front street, one of the most central positions in the city. Here he opened up a thoroughly first-

class paint store, and in 1899 added to his stock a fine line of pictures, picture frames, etc. In fresco and mural painting he stands at the head in central Illinois, and has decorated all of the best residences of Bloomington in recent years, including the homes of George P. Davis, Abner B. Funk, James Wilcox, Tim Wilcox, George Cox, Oscar Wakefield, I. N. Phillips, Vice-President Adlai Stevenson, Luman Burr, Hudson Burr, Mrs. General Gridley, Edward Gridley, Charles Jones, B. S. Green, A. J. Burr, A. B. Hoblitt, Edward Cole and Mrs. Merrick. He also frescoed the Christian church of Bloomington, and has done considerable work in adjoining towns as well.

On the 22d of July, 1893, Mr. Russell married Miss Carrie Kennedy, daughter of J. Kennedy, of Lexington, Illinois. Our subject casts his ballot with the Republican party, but has never been an aspirant for office. He stands high in business circles, and has the confidence and high regard of all who know him.

**T**HEODORE S. WILLHITE, one of the most energetic, progressive and successful business men of Colfax, was born in Richland county, Illinois, December 12, 1861, and is a representative of an honored pioneer family of this state. The first to locate within its borders was his grandfather, Madison Willhite, who was born in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1812, and was a son of James Willhite, a corporal in the war of 1812, and later a pensioner of the government. Madison Willhite remained in his native city until sixteen years of age and was educated in its public schools. It was in 1828 that he came to Illinois, and two years later he was united in marriage with

Miss Susan Stewart, with whom he traveled life's journey as man and wife for the long period of fifty-seven years. Their married life was a very happy one and was blessed with thirteen children, five sons and eight daughters, of whom four sons and three daughters are still living in 1899. For over half a century they made their home in Richland county, Illinois. The grandfather died in 1889, and his wife, who was born in 1816, passed away in 1887.

James C. Willhite, father of our subject, was born in Lawrence county, Illinois, in 1837, and was the fourth in order of birth in the family of thirteen children. He obtained his education in the common schools of his day, and throughout life has followed the honorable occupation of farming. In Richland county, he was married March 17, 1859, to Miss Eliza J. Sawyer, who died September 8, 1876. By that union he had eight children, five sons and three daughters, namely: Alice E. married Frederick Moore, of Richland county, and they have two children living, Leander S. and Jerome; Theodore S., our subject, is the next of the family; Leander C. married Lillie E. Christman, of Bloomington, and they have one son, William; Hattie S. died in her thirteenth year; Delia S. married Samuel J. Yoder, of Danvers; John A. wedded Mary P. Lighthart, of Colfax, and they have one daughter, Mabel V.; James E. married Anna Salisbury and their children are Myrtle and Ethel; and Rosander C. died September 14, 1876. The father was again married, November 25, 1877, his second union being with Abba M. Buckingham, of Richland county, by whom he had four children: Emma S.; Winfield S.; Lillie M.; and Laura B., who died November 19, 1892. The parents are still living.

During his boyhood and youth Theodore S. Willhite attended the public school near his home and was also a student in the Sumner high school. When out of the school room he assisted his father in the work of the farm and later learned the carpenter's trade, which as a contractor and builder he followed for some time, erecting about fifty residences in Colfax. For the past four years he has successfully engaged in the real-estate business to the extent of many thousand dollars. In 1894 he became a promoter of the East Colfax coal mine, which was sunk by Frank Seymour, who afterwards sold his interest to Mr. Simpkins, of Streator, Illinois, who through the lack of necessary means to operate it finally abandoned it. The mine filled with water and was in that condition for three years. In the spring of 1898 Mr. Willhite suggested a plan where J. J. Pitts and James S. Ewing, of Bloomington, became interested with himself in the development and operation of the mine. In the spring of 1899 they organized a joint stock company with a capital of forty-one thousand dollars, and the following officers were elected: W. G. Anderson, president; G. W. Arnold, vice-president; W. H. Anderson, secretary and treasurer; and Theodore S. Willhite, manager; while the board of directors consists of W. G. Anderson, G. W. Arnold, J. J. Pitts, W. D. Hawk and Theodore S. Willhite, all of Colfax with the exception of Mr. Pitts, who is a resident of Bloomington. Under the able management of our subject the mine is now in successful operation. In business affairs he is energetic, prompt and notably reliable and carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes.

On the 25th of September, 1884, Mr.

Willhite was united in marriage with Miss Alminirie F. Shultz, of Colfax, a daughter of Henry and Olive (Haines) Shultz, both natives of Ohio. The mother died in the spring of 1897, but the father is still living and finds a pleasant home with our subject and his wife. He was born in 1825, was educated in the schools of Ohio, and came to Illinois in 1850, locating in Danvers township, McLean county, where he followed the occupations of farming and blacksmithing. In his family were seven children, four sons and three daughters, namely: Alice F., McHenry, Dora Gladys, Frank, Lydia, Alminirie F. and Charles E. To Mr. and Mrs. Willhite were born five children, three sons and two daughters: Ellis, who died in infancy; Artie O.; Bessie, who died in her fourth year; Glenn, who died in infancy; and Howard T. The parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and Mr. Willhite affiliates with the Democratic party.

WILLIAM H. CLINE, the present efficient and popular mayor of Le Roy and a prominent stock dealer of that place, was born December 12, 1835, in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, of which his parents, George and Mary (Miller) Cline, were also natives. The father, who was a farmer by occupation, continued to make his home in Cumberland county until about 1850, when he removed to Ohio and first settled in Wayne county, where he engaged in the manufacture of wagons for a few years. His next home was in Putnam county, the same state, where he purchased land, and while his sons cleared away the forest and opened up a farm he continued



to carry on a wagon manufactory. In 1863, with his family, he came to Illinois and located on a farm near Benjaminville, but a year later bought another farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Old Town township, on which he made many improvements, including the erection of a good residence and barn. He successfully engaged in its operation for some years and died there in 1872. His wife had passed away in 1870. In their family were five sons and one daughter, namely: Samuel E., a resident of McLean county; David, who is in the west; Rev. George, a minister of the Christian church, now located in Findlay, Ohio; William H., our subject; Rev. C. C., also a minister of the Christian church, now located in Cincinnati, Ohio; and Emma, who married William Spencer.

William H. Cline passed his boyhood and youth in Ohio, obtaining a good practical education in the common schools and assisting in the development and improvement of the home farm. He was a young man of eighteen years, when, in 1862, he came with the family to McLean county, Illinois, and he remained with his parents during their declining years, giving his father the benefit of his labors. After their death he succeeded to the home place. In Arrowsmith township, this county, he was married in 1870 to Miss Mary F. Scott, who was born in Iowa, but was reared and educated in McLean county. Her father was William T. Scott, a substantial farmer of Empire township.

After his marriage, Mr. Cline continued to reside upon the home farm for two or three years and then sold and purchased another farm of eighty acres. Still later he owned and operated a farm of eighty acres east of Le Roy, and during the several years

he resided thereon, he erected a new barn upon the place and transformed it into one of the best improved farms of Empire township. Finally he rented that farm and purchased the old Scott homestead, comprising one hundred and twenty acres, on which he resided for a time. In the meantime Mr. Cline became interested in the stock business, buying, feeding, shipping and selling. He commenced in a small way but kept increasing the business from year to year.

In 1891 Mr. Cline removed to Le Roy, where he purchased residence property and erected thereon one of the largest, neatest and best finished residences in Le Roy, which is noted for its superior homes. About 1893 he formed a partnership with Nelson Bishop in the stock business, and it was not long before they had built up an extensive business, being among the heaviest shippers of stock in the county, handling on an average nearly four hundred car loads of cattle and hogs annually. The firm is now Cline, Bishop & Caton, Mr. Caton having been admitted to a partnership in the spring of 1899.

Since casting his first presidential ballot for Gen. U. S. Grant, in 1868, Mr. Cline has never failed to support the men and measures of the Republican party. He has ever taken an active and commendable interest in educational affairs, and for nine years was a member of the district school board, and clerk of the district. On the 18th of April, 1899, he was elected mayor of Le Roy by a nice majority, and is now most creditably and acceptably filling that office. He and his wife hold membership in the Christian church of Le Roy, and have the respect and esteem of all who know them.



JOHN H. CREEL, an honored pioneer of Dawson township, who is successfully engaged in farming on section 30, was born in the Old Dominion, and is a son of George and Mary (Ball) Creel, natives of Warrenton, Virginia. In their family were nine children, namely: Benjamin, William, Nancy, Delilah, Harrison, Sarah Ann, John H., George S. and Elizabeth. The grandfather, William Creel, made his home in Fauquier county, Virginia, until death, and was engaged in farming and stock-raising. The father also died in that state, and later the mother, with four of her children, came to McLean county, Illinois, in 1848. She made her home with our subject until called from this life in 1873, at the age of ninety-two years, her remains being interred in the Frankberger cemetery, this county. She left many friends, as well as relatives, to mourn her loss, as she was a good mother and kind neighbor. She was always ready to lend her assistance to those in need, and, many have occasion to remember her kindly ministrations and gentle touch at the sick bed.

John H. Creel gained his education in the common schools of his day, which were much inferior to modern institutions of learning, but he made good use of his opportunities and has become a well-informed man. He belongs to that class of sturdy, persevering and industrious men who braved the hardships of pioneer life in order to secure for themselves and families good homes, and in so doing materially advanced the interests of county and state by transforming the wild land into valuable and well-improved farms. He has gained a reputation as one of the most enterprising and successful farmers of his community, and his fine farm with its fertile fields, com-

modious and substantial buildings stand as a monument to his thrift and perseverance.

On the 1st of March, 1877, Mr. Creel married Miss Pairlee M. Shields, a daughter of James and Martha E. (Mahan) Shields, who were born in the blue grass region of Kentucky, near Lexington. In the Mahan family were five children, namely: Martha Jane, William Archibald, Samuel Hugh, Pairlee M. and Milton Henry. Mr. Mahan came to McLean county at an early day, and here his wife died in 1892, being laid to rest in the Benjamin Vale cemetery.

J A. HOUGHAM. It is now almost seventy-five years since the family to which this well-known citizen belongs became identified with McLean county, and its various members have won for the same an enviable distinction by their intelligence and worth. This high reputation is in no ways diminished in this generation, and our subject, who is numbered among the leading agriculturists of Funks Grove township, his home being on section 6, displays in a marked degree the admirable characteristics which the name suggests.

Runion Hougham, the grandfather of our subject, was a native of England, and on his emigration to America first located in Ohio, but in 1825 came overland with an ox team to McLean county, Illinois, and was one of the first settlers of Funks Grove. Since then the family have taken an active and prominent part in the growth and development of the county, and have been numbered among its best and most highly respected citizens.

Lamon Hougham, our subject's father, was born in Highland county, Ohio, in 1817, and was a lad of eight years when

brought by his parents to Illinois. In 1854 he was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Pemberton, a native of Indiana, who, when a young lady, came with her father, James Pemberton, to this county, about 1847. After his marriage, Mr. Hougham continued to reside upon and operate the old homestead for several years. He also entered the land where our subject now makes his home, and transformed the wild tract into a highly cultivated and valuable farm. There he spent his last days, dying in 1885. His estimable wife still survives him.

J. A. Hougham, of this review, was born in Funks Grove township, February 10, 1855, and spent his boyhood and youth upon his present farm, his education being obtained in the local schools. In this county he was married December 20, 1876, to Miss Elizabeth A. Dozier, a native of Estill county, Kentucky, and a daughter of Ephraim and Hulda (Benton) Dozier, who were born, reared and married in Madison county, Kentucky. The father, who was of French descent, died in Estill county, in 1879, and the mother in the same state in 1865. At the age of sixteen Mrs. Hougham came to McLean county to live with her aunt, Mrs. Elizabeth Quinn, and remained with her until her marriage. Our subject and his wife have three children, namely: Leota, James S. and Sue E., all at home. The two older were educated in the schools of McLean and the youngest at the Bloomington high school and Wesleyan University. The older daughter also took a course in music at the Wesleyan University.

Mr. and Mrs. Hougham began their

domestic life upon the old homestead in Funks Grove township, which he successfully operated for several years. Later he spent ten months elsewhere and then returned to the farm, to which he succeeded after the death of his father. He has since made some valuable improvements upon it, rebuilt and remodeled the residence, and fenced and tiled the land, converting it into one of the finest farms of the locality. In 1889 he removed to McLean, where he spent eight years, for the purpose of giving his children better educational advantages than the district schools afforded. In connection with general farming he is now successfully engaged in raising and feeding stock, handling annually one car load of steers and a large number of hogs. He is also interested in breeding and dealing in standard bred road and draft horses, and is accounted one of the most successful farmers and stockmen of the county. His farm, consisting of two hundred and eighty acres, is under a high state of cultivation.

In his political affiliations Mr. Hougham is an ardent Democrat, casting his first vote for Samuel J. Tilden, in 1876, and for every presidential nominee of the party since then. Socially he is a Knight Templar Mason, belonging to the blue lodge of Shirley, in which he has filled several offices; and Bloomington Chapter and Commandery. His wife holds membership in the Christian church of Shirley, and both are held in the highest respect and esteem by a large circle of friends and acquaintances. The entire family is one of prominence in the community where they reside.

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